Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

State Pomological Society.

The Second Winter Meeting of the Maine State Pomological Society and Fruit Growers' Convention will be held at the State House, Augusta, on Wednesday and Thursday, January 20th and 21st.

Programme.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20, 12 o'clock, M. Preliminary meeting at the Augusta House, (by adjournment from annual meeting at Portland, Sept. 24, 1874).

2 o'clock, P. M. Public meeting at the State House. Report of the Committee on catalogue of fruits for Maine, to be followed by discussion of varieties.

7 o'clock, P. M. Public meeting. Report of the Corresponding Secretary, Dr. J. C. Weston of Bangor, and discussion of subjects embraced in the same. 2d. Examination of flower-garden plans, and report of special committee to award the Boardman Prize for best original plan with directions. (See schedule of premiums Sept., 1874, page 13.) and paper on Floriculture and Ornamental Gardening, by Rev. J. A. Varney of North Vassalboro'. 3d. Discussion on orchard culture.

THURSDAY, Jan. 21, 8 o'clock, A. M. Exhibition of winter fruits, (to continue through the day).

9 o'clock, A. M. Business meeting of the Society, for the presentation of the annual reports of the officers; transaction of business postponed from annual meeting in September; consideration of order offered by Hon. W. Gilbert at last winter meeting; (See proceedings 1874, page 100.) re-arrangement and assignment of duties of standing committees, &c.

2 o'clock, P. M. Public meeting for discussion of Pear culture, Grapes and Small Fruits.

The programme for Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon will be subject to such changes as circumstances may require, and other papers and subjects for discussion will be presented, as opportunity offers. Z. A. GILBERT, President.

GEO. B. SAWYER, Secretary.

The Scientific Survey of Maine.

Value and Importance of such Work.

The aid which science has rendered to the accumulation of public and private wealth, to the developement and utilization of the natural resources of States, and to the general prosperity of our country—is positive and decided. Valuable minerals have been discovered by accident, and men who have had no knowledge of science, have occasionally found out rich treasures of Nature and turned them to a useful purpose. But aside from instances of this kind, it is nevertheless true that science has rendered the most obvious benefit in the developement of new sources of national wealth; and numerous instances could be cited to show that an intimate knowledge of the earth's surface, such as is possessed by those familiar with geology and mineralogy, has contributed to the positive advancement and accumulation of material wealth.

There is a natural connection between certain geological formations and valuable deposits, a knowledge of which gives certainty in investigations—and this knowledge is the result of special geological study. By the application of this knowledge, rich substances have been discovered; and when found, their productiveness and method of working have been determined by the principles established by this same branch of science. The discovery of the coal, iron, lead, silver and gold mines of our country, have generally been the fruit of scientific explorations, undertaken to ascertain the value of our natural wealth in these directions—and the National Government, as well as individual States, have recognized the value of these investigations, by appropriating large sums of money towards carrying them on. "In none of these instances," says President Chadbourne in his admirable Lectures on Natural History, "has the money failed to yield a full return in kind, besides an immense benefit to the general cause of science. In some, the return in a single year has been a hundred fold. Such explorations do not produce their best results at all times in the discovery of minerals. They point out general characteristics of soil as derived from certain classes of rocks, discover fertilizers, and thus give important aid to agriculture. They also point out proper building materials by the discovery of quarries and clays, cements and paints. States have generally shown their wisdom when ordering geological surveys, by connecting with them surveys in every other department of Natural History—the plants, the birds, the fishes, the quadrupeds and insects, have each been deemed worthy of study." Besides the four or five distinct surveys now being carried on by the National Government, nineteen States of our Union have authorized geological and scientific surveys of their respective territories, the results of which have been published in important and valuable reports—and in eight States these surveys are now in progress. In submitting a resume of the work of the Hayden Explorations in the Western Territories, Secretary Delano says: "I regard the moderate cost of these surveys as more than compensated by the value of the information thereby obtained, and therefore cordially recommend their continuance." The Government of Canada has carried on its Geological Survey uninterruptedly since 1843—a period of thirty-two years; and while it has been a means of developing the natural resources of the Dominion, and pointing out many new business enterprises of a profitable nature—it has also contributed most important results to science, and has each year made sufficient additions to the actual wealth of the Province to fully compensate for its cost to the Government. Indeed, States have ever believed that the expenditure of public money for surveys and explorations of this kind, has always been a wise measure, returning four-fold in material wealth; and that legislation of this kind has always been prudent, satisfactory, and in the best interests of their respective commonwealths.

Early Labors of Drs. Jackson and Holmes.

The State of Maine was one of the first in the Union to recognize the value of and inaugurate a Scientific Survey, although Massachusetts had previously started in the same direction. At the session of the Legislature in 1836, resolves were passed providing for a geological survey of the State, under the direction of the "Board of Internal Improvement," in which it was stated that such a survey was an enterprise "that might rightfully claim the encouragement of every class of industry, as involving more or less of probable utility to each, and intimately connected with the advancement of the arts and sciences, agriculture, manufactures and commerce." Under this resolve Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston, was appointed State Geologist, and assumed charge of the work in June, 1836. Besides publishing annual reports for the years 1837, 1838 and 1839, he also published in 1838, a report on the geology of the public lands owned in this State, jointly by Maine and Massachusetts; the object of which was to "lead to a more accurate knowledge of the worth of the public domain." Dr. Jackson was one of the most eminent geologists of his day, and was subsequently employed in making surveys of the States of Rhode Island and New Hampshire. In 1838, Dr. Holmes made an exploration and survey of the Aroostook Territory, under direction of the "Board of Internal Improvements," and published a useful report which was devoted to the natural resources and agricultural capabilities of this new part of Maine. These reports were of great value in making known a knowledge of the resources and advantages of our State, as an agricultural section, and they laid the foundation for the information we possess of its geological features and formations. Through the agency of this Survey, useful mines and quarries were opened, the location of lime, slate, granite and other valuable deposits pointed out, and suits of minerals illustrating our geology, were deposited in the State Cabinet in this city, and the colleges and other institutions of learning in the State, thereby contributing largely to the educational advantages of our commonwealth. Indeed, an impetus to the settlement of our territory, to the development of its natural resources, to the improvement of its agriculture and the development of its varied industries, followed the publication and dissemination of the reports of these surveys; and the State received in these directions in the space of a few years—ten-fold more than their entire cost. In fact their good influence is felt even to this day; and although the work performed was never fully completed, yet the results were lasting and beneficial in the highest degree.

Accuracy of Statement.

We are very glad to have at last found one exact farmer. All our life we have been endeavoring to school farmers up to the position of being accurate in statement and careful in practice—to conducting their business with method and system, and to be ready at all times to give a reason for the faith that is in them. In editing this journal, we have more than all else, endeavored to make our correspondents and writers exact in statement, and particular in meaning, when they have spoken of the amount of manure used, quantity of grain harvested, depth plowed, weight of animals sold, and all other details of a similar nature. Yet notwithstanding this care, many loose statements will get into print, and many articles will be published containing expressions which may well be questioned. And even in such instances as these, we have almost invariably found, (so careful and intelligent are our readers), that such statements are usually challenged, and the real facts in the case brought out by inquiry and criticism; our journal being not a *text-book* in the science of agriculture, but a medium for conveying information, and a means of exchanging opinion and experience among the farmers of Maine. And for all this we have at last been rewarded. A gentleman who "desires more exact information" than our paper gives, writes to our publishers from an agricultural town, three sides of which are washed by tide-water, to have his paper discontinued, because in a late number we mentioned that a "large yield of wheat had been raised on land dressed only with ashes," and the sale of an extra colt was recorded, without the price paid being given.

The former statement was copied from an exchange, and the latter furnished by a subscriber or correspondent. We admire our friend's consistency, and are glad to have made his acquaintance "on this interesting occasion." He is correct when he says, "the defect in our agricultural management, is the lack of exactness of treatment"—and we part company with a man of so much wisdom, with profound regret. When he finds out "how many bushels of ashes are required to raise forty bushels of wheat to the acre," we beg he will let us know. We will have the magic figures printed in gold on a leather medal, and sent to every person, who will forward our publishers the name of one new subscriber, to the MAINE FARMER;—in the meantime wishing our exact correspondent much pleasure in reading our paper in the future as in the past.

Notices of Exchanges.

The *Gardener's Monthly*, always good, opens for January better than ever. Fortunately the number came to hand while "housed up" with a temporary lameness, and every page was carefully read. If succeeding numbers of the volume are as full of interesting, useful and seasonable matter—which we have no doubt will be the case—the work will certainly form one which no lover of fruit or flowers can do without. The arrangement of the contents has been somewhat changed, although we cannot see that it is any improvement; besides, when it is desirable to have queries answered at once, or to insert seasonable matter in an immediate issue, it will be quite impossible to do so, under this new arrangement, unless the same is put into the last form worked, which will bring some of them out of their proper "department." In a weekly journal like the London *Garden*, (upon which the *Gardener's Monthly* is now somewhat modelled) of course this objection would not obtain. However, we congratulate Bro. Meehan on the commencement of his seventeenth volume. Terms $2.10 per year. Charles H. Marot, Publisher, Philadelphia.

Forest and Stream, comes up to our idea of what a paper devoted to outdoor sports and pastimes should be. It is sensible, not sensational; and its pages are largely taken up with really useful articles, giving much information on all subjects relating to practical natural history. In this particular it quite closely approaches *Land and Water*, the leading English journal of sporting and natural history, with which some of our readers are acquainted. The departments of Fish Culture, Natural History, Lawn and Garden, Kennel, Sea and River Fishing, Gun and Rifle, Yachting and Boating, Chess, Horse and Course and Rational Pastimes, are always well filled; and it is a paper we can recommend to all lovers of the country and its sports. Its articles are high toned, well written and scientifically correct, and the journal is a safe one for the family circle—an endorsement which can be made of no similar journal of our acquaintance. Terms $5 per year. Address, 17 Chatham St., New York.

A Penobscot County Wheat Crop.

Mr. William M. Davis of North Bangor, raised the past season 35 bushels of very nice Lost Nation wheat, from one acre and a half of ground, and 14 bushels from three-fourths of an acre; and while he does not report it as an extra crop, is satisfied it is fully up to the average yield of his section.

West Penobscot Agricultural Society.

In accordance with its usual custom, this Society has issued a pamphlet of a dozen pages, giving an abstract of its transactions during the past year, with the awards of all the committees, list of life members, treasurer's report, and other details of interest to members and exhibitors. The awards for farm improvements were severally made to S. D. Jennings, Garland; J. W. Haskell, Garland; Horace Jennings, Dexter, and Jacob Eastman, Exeter. Among the premium crops we find the following:—Two acres of wheat, 78 bushels, A. J. Wiggin, Stetson; 58 bushels, Wm. Grinnel, Exeter; one acre, 40 bushels, J. W. Leathers, Exeter; 27 bushels, John Bagley, Corinth. One acre oats, 60 bushels, James Smith, Corinna; one acre corn, 140 bushels ears, the same; 130 bushels ears, Wm. Grinnell, Exeter. One acre potatoes, 239 bashels, S. B. Brooks, Corinna; 235 bushels, John Andrews, Exeter. Other crops almost equal to the above in amount are reported, and we refer those interested, to the pamphlet, for additional facts. The names of the officers of this flourishing Society will be found in another part of this impression.

The Fruit Growers' Convention.

We publish this week the programme for the winter meeting of the State Pomological Society to be held at the State House in this city on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Although much of the time will be occupied with matters of a business nature, it is business in which every fruit grower has an interest, viz: the preparation and adoption of a fruit catalogue for Maine. This will lead to a discussion on the varieties best adapted for the different sections of our State, and we hope all fruit growers present will take part in the same, that the list may go out to the fruit growers of our State in as perfect a manner as possible. Besides this, interesting papers are to be presented, and the whole programme is one promising much interest to all giving attention to fruit growing and ornamental gardening.

Editorial Notes.

We trust the experience of Mr. Alfred Smith of Monmouth, one of our veteran orchardists, on his plan of renovating a useless orchard, and its results, will induce many who have similar trees, to put in operation some method for their rejuvenation. Mr. Smith's success is attested by the fact, that for two years in succession, he has been awarded the premium of the State Pomological Society, for the best dish of Roxbury Russets, viz., at Bangor in 1873, and Portland in 1874.

Mr. Joseph Wells of Kennebunk Depot, wishes to purchase some Lost Nation wheat for spring seeding. Farmers having nice, plump wheat, suitable for seed, would do well to advertise.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Water in Stock Food.

Those who were at the winter meeting of the Board of Agriculture a year ago, and those who read a report of the same, will recollect the remarks of the distinguished farmer from New York, the Hon. Harris Lewis, on stock food in the course of which he gave fodder corn a very low estimate on account of the large percentage of water it contains in a green state; and will recall the characteristic manner in which he related the experience by which he learned its small value, and how eager his cows were to obtain some dry forage to "mop up the slops in their stomachs" after having been fed on fodder corn. By expelling the water by heating in a hot oven he had found that fodder corn in a green state contained ninety-two per cent. of water.

It is unfortunate that so distinguished a farmer as Mr. Lewis should "ride a hobby," yet those who have read the agricultural press for a few years past must have come to the conclusion that the above position has been ridden pretty strong, and that it has taken many labored arguments to make the position appear tenable. In the last position taken which I have seen reported, the distinguished speaker had come to the conclusion that since grass is a better feed than fodder corn, on natural grass lands grass should be the dependence; but on corn lands he did not argue that it had better not be grown—a position which can but commend itself to all dairymen and stock feeders. I allude to the above in no spirit of criticism, for no one has a higher estimate of the practical knowledge and marked common sense of the gentleman alluded to than myself, and no one more enjoys the jovial manner in which that knowledge is given to others. I say it is unfortunate for one to have a "hobby," for the inexperienced are liable to be thereby led astray, and the experienced lose confidence from the over-prominence given to, and the far-fetched arguments many times made in support of the positions taken. For myself, I always try to weigh all statements heard in the scale of my own experience, if I have had experience in that direction, if not, then I treasure it up, and test it by experience when opportunity offers.

At Wiscasset the impression was left, from the full remarks upon the subject, that a large percentage of water in an article of stock food is detrimental to its value. Experience proves, as all attentive stock feeders well know, that this is not the case. In order to obtain the best possible results, *a stock food should contain upwards of eighty per cent. water.* All experience proves this. It should however be modified to a limited extent, when fed for special purposes To what extent and for what purposes, the limit of this article will not allow an allusion.

Milk, the most natural and the most perfect food for all young animals, and equally valuable for animals of maturer growth, contains eighty-five per cent. of water. Even man can be sustained on it alone in full health, vigor and strength, through life. When its "richness" is very much increased, as is sometimes the case in that from an individual animal, it is found that it no longer continues so healthful to the system. Especially is this fact made apparent in young calves, colts and lambs.

Grass in its green and succulent state is conceded by all to be the nearest perfect of any animal food grown. Yet this contains from seventy-five to eighty-five per cent. water, according to the condition in which it is cut or fed. Some species, in their most succulent condition, if put to the test of Mr. Lewis' fodder corn, will throw off nearly or quite as much water as did that. Yet stock never cloy upon it—never fail to thrive upon it.

Root crops of all kinds contain a large per cent. of water, yet their value as stock food is admitted by all intelligent farmers. Potatoes, considered by all common farmers as the best roots for stock, according to the latest analysis, contains ninety-five per cent. water; ruta bagas eighty-seven per cent.; white turnips ninety-two per cent.; pumpkins ninety-four and a half per cent. It is well known that pumpkins liberally fed will fatten beef rapidly. So also will potatoes. It is also as well known that in England vast quantities of beef and mutton are made on ruta bagas. The best of butter and milk are realized when the cows are fed liberally on beets; yet eighty-eight per cent. of their substance is water. When the percentage of water in pasture grasses becomes reduced by drought and the lateness of the season, nothing is relished so well, or produces so immediate and satisfactory results as a liberal feed of some succulent root or plant containing from eighty-five to ninety-five per cent. of water. Early cut hay contains about seventeen per cent. water, and when, for a winter feed, we give a liberal quantity of potatoes, beets or turnips, we obtain very satisfactory results—much more so than when the dry forage is fed alone. So that we find, whether in winter or summer, the best results are obtained when stock food is made up largely of water.

Z. A. GILBERT.

For the Maine Farmer.

Lampas in Horses.

A "Subscriber" in the FARMER some time since, wished to know a remedy for lampas in horses without resorting to the barbarous practice of burning. I can tell him something about it, but must first come to an understanding about what he calls the "barbarous practice." And first, I will give a little of my own experience:

Some twelve or fifteen years ago I had a very nice colt that was troubled with the disease in question, and as for three successive winters it remained thin and rough, when with the feed and care it got it should have been fat and sleek, I naturally looked around with considerable interest for a remedy. I saw frequent references to it in the papers but all united in denouncing the practice of burning as a relic of barbarism, quackery, &c. The remedies usually proposed were bran mashes, rubbing with salt, giving raw potatoes, lancing, &c., &c. All of which I religiously applied, but the colt got no better. About that time the matter came up for discussion before the "Farmers' Club" of New York. Solon Robinson was then agricultural editor of the *Tribune*. As usual, burning was denounced by several of the leading horse men of the Club; but Mr. Robinson took the opposite ground and stated that if the operation was properly performed, it was *not* barbarous. He stated that if it was done with a suitable iron, heated up to a white heat, it would cause but little pain and would leave no inflammation. As a practical blacksmith I knew this to be true. I knew very well that when my hand or arm came in contact with an iron at a white heat, I scarcely felt it and the burn gave me no trouble afterwards. So the next day I took my colt to the shop and seared the bars of the mouth that were swelled, with an iron drawn sparkling from the fire, and that was the end of the lampas with that colt. If you are going to do it with an iron heated to a dull red, and after burning a while, tear the seared flesh out with a hook and then burn again, I denounce it as barbarous too. The hardest adjective in Webster's Unabridged is too tame for the diabolical practice. I have seared the mouths of a good many horses since, and always with good results.

I will now describe my method of doing it. Take a stick of some kind of *soft* wood about two and a half inches in diameter, and tie a piece of strong cord about four feet long to one end. Now let the operator put his iron into the fire and when it is *about* hot enough, let the other man put the stick in the horse's mouth and pass the cord over the top of his head and tie it around the stick on the near side and quickly put his hand around the horse's under jaw and *over his tongue*. Now let the man who is heating the iron draw it from the fire *at a white heat* and seizing the horse's upper lip with his left hand apply the iron lightly back and forth, and it is done before the horse hardly knows what you want. D. C.

Baring.

For the Maine Farmer.

Maine Horses.

I was very much interested in Mr. Bailey's article upon this subject. It is well to post people, not only upon the trotters of Maine, but also to let them know what is doing in other States. I think we can successfully compete with Kentucky, however, or any other State, if we use a good stock and feed as well. If we have not fertile fields of waving blue grass, we have as good pasture soil as Kentucky has. It only remains for us to cultivate it. Pastures should be laid down to seed, as carefully as mowing lands are. No man may hope to raise good colts unless he feeds them. To show what may be done, I have taken the following measurements from a colt twenty months old. To be sure, he was foaled in Tennessee, but he has been grown in Maine. It may serve to amuse the reader, some stormy day, to see how much his colt can beat mine in size. There are many, no doubt, who can, but probably there are more who cannot.

Dimensions.

	Inches
Height:	61
Length:	
Shoulder to buttock,	58
Hip to "	23½
Hip to back,	40
Hock to ground,	24
Back,	20½
Across hips,	19½
Neck,	27
Head,	23½
Elbow to ground,	37
Back of knee to ground	19
Point to point of shoulders,	14½
Stifle to stifle (breech),	35
Circumference:	
Girth,	67
Barrel,	75
Loin,	65
Stifle,	34
Gaskin,	14
Hock,	15½
Hind leg,	81
Forearm,	19
Fore knee,	8
Fore leg,	8
Neck at head,	29
Neck at body,	44
Head at jaws,	33
Muzzle,	18

In Simpson's Horse Portraiture may be found similar measurements of several celebrated horses. WM. S. TILTON.

Togus.

For the Maine Farmer.

Apple Tree Tap-Root.

You will recall the interesting discussion during the County Meeting at Etna, in reference to cutting the tap-root of apple trees at transplanting. Mr. Carter of Etna favored the practice of severing the tap-root, while Mr. Luce of Bangor condemned all such amputations. As both of the speakers are experienced orchardists, how is a tyro in tree culture to know whether to cut or not to cut?

My own practice in setting young trees has been to save the tap-root if possible, and encourage downward growth of roots by placing all tending downward in that position instead of spreading them out laterally, believing that this fortifies the trees better against severe cold, and of course against winter-killing. I am quite sure that it gives more vigor to the tree in seasons of drought.

About apple trees winter-killing, my experience and observation goes to show, that selecting trees having stiff, stocky trunks is a better preventive than hardy varieties. Those whip-stick, fishing-rod shaped trees will freeze as easily as a carrot. I venture the assertion that those that have most of those "pretty" switch or withe-rod trees. To make apple growing a success in Maine as it can be made, there is a deal to be learned in regard to selections and care. I have ruined many a thrifty tree by excessive pruning and errors in grafting. S. W.

Warren.

For the Maine Farmer.

Feeding Hens in Winter.

In the first place give them plenty of pure water. If you want to fatten, give corn; if growth is what you want, oats are good—but for laying hens a variety of food is necessary; also plenty of shell timber—hens often die for want of it. Pound up bones and crockery or glass, give plenty of ashes, lime, plaster and gravel. Wheat bran is better than corn for laying hens. A warm mush of boiled potatoes and shorts moistened with milk is good in the morning. Sprinkle in a little cayenne pepper or throw in a shovel full of coals once in a while. Give dry grain at night; we warm it in very cold weather. A little sulphur or chopped onions given occasionally is for their health.

POULTRY KEEPER.

For the Maine Farmer.

Notes by the Way.

Talks with the Farmers of Piscataquis.

Mr. J. O. Burgess of South Dover, has a good farm of 133 acres, keeps a good stock of cattle, 33 very nice sheep and four horses. Mr. B. was one of the first settlers in West Dover, and he tells me he has sown the same seed on his farm for forty years and has always succeeded in raising good crops; his oats yielding him an average of 40 to 50 bushels to the acre. He believes in using muck as a fertilizer, and makes farming pay. There are some excellent farms in Dover and Foxcroft, and business in these villages is quite lively—the two villages are apparently one; the stream dividing them. I spent the night with Thomas Daggett, one of the enterprising young farmers of Foxcroft. Mr. D. has a farm of 225 acres, cuts 40 tons of hay, has 75 sheep, 8 head of cattle, and 4 horses. He has one of the best barns in town, 40x75 feet, arranged with a view to comfort and convenience. He has the best arrangement for a sheep rack, that I have seen anywhere, keeping his lambs and old sheep by themselves, and has a partition between so arranged, that he can change them whenever he chooses. He tells me his barn has cost him about one thousand dollars. Mr. Dagget believes in farming in Maine, and with this faith, cannot fail to succeed.

The Farm of Wm. Downs of South Sebec.

I spent a half hour with Mr. William Downs of South Sebec, an enterprising farmer, and gained much valuable information in regard to the use of muck which Mr. Downs is using with the very best results, as an inspection of his crops will show; and he tells me his land was very much run out when he came upon it. He cuts about 90 tons of hay; and raised the past season 150 bushels of Lost Nation wheat, 150 bushels of oats, 40 bushels of beans, 400 bushels of corn on the ear, and 600 bushels of potatoes, besides his small crops. He sells nothing in the shape of crops off his farm, but feeds everything to his stock, which shows the affect of good feeding. Mr. Downs has 30 head of cattle, 30 sheep and 3 horses. His barn is 40x75 feet finished in good shape. Mr. D. tells me that he uses one hundred loads of muck every year, and makes 40 loads of dressing from his hogs by adding muck to the yard. He has raised his farm from a low to a high state of cultivation by making and saving all the dressing possible; showing what may be done when a man starts in on the right principle and has faith in farming.

Sebec Village.

lies at the foot of what is called Sebec Lake, which is 12 miles long. There is a small steamboat which runs from Sebec to the head of the Lake, in the summer. At this place is one of the best water powers to be found in the State, and the village is a smart one. There is a woolen factory here, with 18 sets of looms and they are now making opera flannels. They employ about fifty hands. The mill is what is called a three-set mill—they weave three cuts of flannel on one loom and are making some first-class goods. There is a saw mill, shingle, lath and clap-board machine, and also a tub factory; and they have recently built a tannery where they intend to tan sheep-skins, making in all quite a business place. The land around Sebec is not so good for general farming purposes, as it is for grazing.

Williamsburg Slate Quarries.

Williamsburg is one of the last incorporated towns in the county, and is not much of a farming town, although there are some very good farms. The slate quarry business is the principal business done here. Mr. E. Hughes, a Welchman, has recently opened a quarry on his farm which promises to be one of the best in the State. He has just commenced to work it and they give it the name of "Piscataquis Slate Quarry Company." The samples given me from this mine are the best I have ever seen, being soft and leady, the very qualities desired for roofing slate. There is a settlement of Welchmen in Williamsburg, and I am told they are an industrious, enterprising class of people; many of them are employed in the slate quarries at Brownville and Williamsburg. The Brownville quarries and Katahdin Iron Works I may give a brief sketch of in my next letter.

Williamsburg. J. P. CLARK.

For the Maine Farmer.

Making and Marketing Butter.

I believe in cheese and cheese factories, and ardently hope both will multiply. I also believe in butter, butter factories and (despite the opinion of the Honorable President of the Maine Board of Agriculture) in skim milk; only I would have the quality of the latter improved by an infusion of Indian meal, and in the former by the introduction of more care and pains-taking in all the manipulations connected therewith.

The thoughts embraced in this article are suggested by experience and are put forth with no feelings of egotism or pride, for if any one can justly indulge in those feelings it is my better half and not this one. One year since we decided that our home market right here in Maine demanded a higher grade of butter and would pay a better price for it, and we decided further, that so far as we were able we would supply the demand, and also demand the corresponding advance.

We proceeded at once to carry our decision into effect and have found customers ready to pay for all they got. And I renew the assertion that I made through the press last winter, that good, yellow butter packed in *well soaked and salted* tubs and kept *perfectly sweet* till cool weather, if neatly and tastefully put up—or the same grade of butter nicely molded in pound lumps and stamped, covered with a white napkin and sent to market in a neat box in the early morning, would bring forty cents a pound. Now don't say that the same butter is worth just as much sent to market at mid-day in July or August, in an old dirty looking, black box, or perhaps in a tin pail, made up in balls or *gobs* by hand with the finger marks of the dairy-maid plainly to be seen upon them; for customers have their own notions of what they want and so long as they are willing to pay for it, it is not best to quarrel with them. We have raised the price of our butter, by attending to the above hints, ten cents a pound—a small item I allow, but if we lived by making butter before, the ten cents additional is mostly profit, and a few cents on a pound would in a long run make all the difference between success and failure.

But suppose we raise the price of butter in the State five cents a pound, and this can be done if each will try for him or herself, how much would it amount to? By the census of 1870 there were made in Maine 11,636,482 lbs. Five cents increase on this would amount to $581,824.10, with scarce a perceptible outset to obtain it. This surely is an item worth saving. But, say you, this adds nothing to the real wealth of the community? Very well, suppose it does not. The cry with farmers is that professional men, troublesome middle-men and mechanics are making all the money. Very well again. We will take no issue there, but if we can get five or ten cents a pound more for our butter after our wives have made it worth that much more and the consumer is willing to pay it, I can't see who is harmed, and just to the extent of the additional price we help to equalize the discrepancy complained of.

I know there are farmers who get and have obtained 40 or 50, and in some cases 65 cts. for their butter, for years. I am not writing for them, so they need not think themselves unjustly censured or unnecessarily exhorted, but I do really wish the rank and file of farmers and farmers' wives would take this matter in hand and prove for themselves the truth of my assertions. And after we have all decided to do this let us also decide to do all we do, in the way of farming, better; to make and *save* more manure; to raise better crops; to expend our resources on fewer acres; to do less hand labor and more with teams and machinery; to practice more economy where we can do so just as well as not, and see if instead of calling upon politicians, Legislatures, Congress or protective unions to help us, we cannot help ourselves and by our own efforts make the profession of farming self-sustaining. "What can't be cured, must be endured:" and what can be, let us cure rather than fold our hands and grumble at it.

Finally, if we were to thank God more for the blessings we enjoy, or rather for the blessings we have and might enjoy, and grumble less at those we do not have, we should be far happier and better contented.

Clear View. D. H. THING.

For the Maine Farmer.

Experience in Renovating an Old Orchard.

Twelve years ago, I moved from Winthrop, my native town, to Monmouth and bought a farm containing about fifty acres of land. The soil, in its virgin or natural state, was good, but like most of our old lands, had been exhausted by that ruinous process of not restoring to the soil, in the shape of fertilizers, what it had lost in the crops. The orchard, (though engrafted mostly to Roxbury Russets, Baldwins, Rhode Island Greenings,) also contained an ample supply for home use of about all the standard varieties of the country, in regular succession, such as the Early Harvest, King of Sweets, Shropshire, Vine or Bell's Early, (for early) and Lyman's Sweet, (the best baking apple in the country) Porter, Winthrop Greening, (for autumn) Harvey Apple, Nodhead, and Hubbardston Nonsuch, &c., (for early winter) was in a starving condition, having been robbed by the scythe of about all the elements that are required to make a layer of wood or a good apple. The former owners of this orchard seemed to have acted on the principle as *many do now*, that an apple tree is big enough to take care of itself it if *is robbed*. The leaves of the trees were pale green and extremely small, which are always indicative of thin layers of wood, and small imperfect fruit, while large, deep green leaves indicate vigorous growth and large fruit. My No. 1, Roxbury Russets were so small and inferior, averaging about two inches in diameter, that I was ashamed to carry them to our market. I put up eight barrels and sent them to my son in Boston, to sell. When he received them he wrote me, saying that "they would not sell nor pass for anything but No. 2 Russets," adding, "they are no such apples as you used to raise in Winthrop." Believing that an apple tree or any other kind of tree should not be pruned or grafted, until suitable elements were added to the soil that would put them in a healthy, vigorous condition, enabling them to make thick layers of wood to cover the wounds made in pruning and grafting, I therefore resolved to plough my orchard about four inches deep, and put all the dressing that I made on the farm into my orchard, and grow beans, potatoes and other vegetables in it. I practiced this for two years and seeded it down to grass. I have since added yearly in the shape of mulching, ashes, all the green sward or turf from twenty square rod of bog land, that I was preparing for a cranberry bed, and superphosphate. The amount of mulching used in my orchard for the last five years is twenty tons. The ashes, one hundred barrels (about one barrel to a tree), and phosphate one ton (about twenty pounds to a tree.)

I have pruned my orchard gradually and have taken enough dead wood from it to run my fires about a year, and have grafted some ten or fifteen trees whose fruit was so bitter and sour that it was not fit for the hogs to eat, or even make into cider or vinegar. The trees are now paying me five hundred per cent. yearly, on the investment or cost of grafting them. My orchard is now in its pristine j vigor. The Roxbury Russet is well known to be a medium sized apple. Yet about this year gathered from those stunted trees, Russet apples measuring three and two-third inches in diameter and weighing nine ounces, and No. 1's averaging three inches in diameter, which twelve years ago averaged only two inches in diameter. Now as the rule in mathematics always holds good, that spheres are to each other as the cubes of their diameters, I have increased the size of my russets 2.37 per cent. by good cultivation. A. SMITH.

Monmouth.

For the Maine Farmer.

Farmers and Railroads.

As the time is at hand when our State House will be besieged by railroad lobbyists, seeking favors from the Legislature, it is a proper time to lay before the public what we know of the dealing of railroad companies with individuals in particular and the public in general, and give said companies a chance to explain. I will tell my experience and hope others will do the same. In November, 1873, I had a lamb brought from Waterville on the cars on the M. C. R. R. to Winthrop, the distance as I am informed being about 23 miles. Cost $1.80. The lamb was in a crate 30 inches long, 20 inches wide and 23 inches high, and the total weight was perhaps 150 lbs.

In November, 1874, I had another lamb from the same place sent to Kingfield, on the same road, a distance of 20 miles. Cost $1.70. The lamb was sent without rack, and being a late lamb weighed 60 or 70 lbs. But call it 85 lbs. and we have the modest rate of $40 per ton for transporting live stock twenty miles. What would a first-class passenger ticket cost in the same proportion? Another instance worth mentioning is that of a Lewiston grain dealer who learned that he could buy oats in Houlton as cheap as he could in Chicago, and very soon learned that it would cost him as much to transport them from one place as from the other. O. H. L.

North Turner.

For the Maine Farmer.

Query Regarding Hens.

I keep the White Leghorns, finding them to be the best layers that I have ever tried. Last year one of my hens grew very fat as I supposed; and got so large that she dragged on the ground when she walked; and began to appear sick. I killed and examined her, and found an egg in the lower part of her body between the inwards and the skin, partly decayed, and covered with fat, more than an inch thick. She was in fact, full of fat. This fall when I killed my hens, I found two of them in the same way. only one of them had four and the other three eggs lodged in this manner. These appeared well and hearty, and laid, having large and small eggs in regular order, beside those that were out of place. These were broken and partly decayed, but no offensive smell proceeded from them. These hens had been laying almost continually for a year. I should like to know how those eggs got in such positions. It is a new thing to me, and if any of your correspondents have known instances of the kind and can give the cause, I should like to hear from them. I have kept from fifty to sixty hens for a number of years, and think they pay as well as anything. Do you think it was caused by forcing them to lay, by high keeping?

P. L. WHEELER.

West Waterville.

For the Maine Farmer.

A Good Cow.

I have a small cow, one-half Jersey and one-half Durham, five years old the 27th of last April. She calved on or about the fifth of last February and is to calve again on the second of next February. She has all the hay she will eat five times per day. I warm her water just sufficiently to remove the chill, and give her one pailful in the morning, all she will drink at noon and one pailful at night. Her feed is four quarts of shorts per day. One quart of her milk weighs 2 1-2 lbs. She was milked twice a day and her milk accurately weighed for one week, or 14 milkings, commencing with the night of Monday, Nov. 30th, and closing with the morning of Monday, Dec. 7th, was 104 1-4 lbs. From this we churned 7 3-4 lbs. of the best quality of butter. This at the rate of 13 lbs., 7 7-31 oz. milk to a pound of butter. It is also an average of 14 lbs., 14 2-7 oz. of milk, or 1 lb., 1 5-7 oz. of butter per day. I will state that in June, with no other than pasture feed, she nearly always makes 10 1-2 lbs. of butter per week. I do not claim that she is as good as the best, but simply that she is very good. DAVID HOUSE.

East Monmouth.

For the Maine Farmer.

Waldo Co. Dairymens' Association.

The next session of the Waldo County Dairymens' Association will be held at Belfast, Saturday, Jan. 30th. Among the papers read will be one by D. A. Wadlin of Northport, upon "The Outlook for Factory Cheese Making in Waldo county in 1875;" and one by Geo. E. Brackett on "The Results of Associated Dairying in Waldo county the Past Season." These will be followed by discussions. The question of a supply of cheese boxes for the next season will also be discussed. Nine factories were in operation in the county last year and three more will start next spring. Farmers and dairymen of Waldo county are cordially invited to attend. GEO. E. BRACKETT, Sec'y.

For the Maine Farmer.

Apple Trees on Crab Stocks.

Recently several paragraphs have gone the rounds of the papers that varieties of the best apples if only grafted on the roots of the Siberian crab, would be perfectly hardy—even when the thermometer fell 40° below zero. Now all of this is simple absurdity; and he who reads will soon learn that while the roots of the trees may affect a certain amount of its vitality, the grand requisite is an equitable moisture and food to enable it to carry on its circulation under the extremes of temperature. It is the same with vegetable as with animal life—food and its supply to the circulation of the body is necessary, and without it death must follow.

F. R. E.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Crib Biting Horses—Answer to Query.

Kerosene oil applied to the exposed edges of the crib, is simply, cheap and effectual. In the fall of 1873, my stalls were newly built, and the horses immediately commenced biting them. Kerosene was applied and there has been no biting done since. If a horse is inclined to bite through the bottom of the feed box, fit some pieces of board into it, with the grain of the wood running toward the horse, and he will make no progress and soon give up the job.

Kenduskeag. F. D. JENKINS.

Waldo and Penobscot Ag'l Society.

This Society held its annual meeting at Monroe, Dec. 10th. The Society is in a prosperous condition. It elected the following officers for the next year, viz.: Freeman Atwood, President; E. H. Nealy, Secretary and Treasurer; R. B. Nealy of Monroe, F. W. Ritchie of Winterport, Amos Lane of Prospect, A. E. Nickerson of Swanville, James Wallace of Jackson, Horace Edwards of Brooks, W. B. Ferguson of Dixmont, Charles Croxford of Newburgh, Trustees.

Officers of Androscoggin Ag'l Society.

Nelson Ham, Esq., of Lewiston, President; B. F. Cobb of Poland, B. L. Townsend of Auburn, Vice Presidents; W. R. Wright, Lewiston, Secretary; David Farrar, Treasurer; E. P. Tobie, Librarian; James Clark, Agent; David Farrar, Lewiston, E. C. Millett, West Minot, Z. A. Gilbert, East Turner, Geo. Webb, Auburn, D. J. Briggs, Turner, C. H. Cobb, East Poland, J. Horace Jordan, Webster, Trustees. Z. A. Gilbert, East Turner, member of the Board of Agriculture.

**Note

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Jan. 16, 1875.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

$3.00 IN ADVANCE, OR $2.50 IF NOT PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Postage Free to all Subscribers.

☞ All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞ A subscriber desiring to change his post office direction or to discontinue his paper, must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has previously been sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. AYER is now calling upon our subscribers in Lincoln County.

Mr. A. D. FOSTER, of Lakeville, is our authorized agent for Nova Scotia, and will call upon our subscribers in that Province.

Mr. W. S. NOYES, of Saco, will call upon our subscribers in York Co. during the winter.

Mr. J. P. CLARK will call upon our subscribers in Eastern Somerset and Piscataquis counties.

Mr. S. N. TABER is now calling upon our subscribers in West Kennebec.

Particular Notice to Subscribers.

We take pleasure in acknowledging a very prompt and general response to our appeal to delinquent subscribers, for which they will, one and all, please accept our thanks. But we are in receipt of letters from a large number, who have been unable to avail themselves of our offer, within the date fixed, and desiring us to extend the time in which to make payment of arrearages. This we have decided to do, and accordingly give notice, that all subscribers who will remit us the amount already due, and one year in advance, at the rate of two dollars per annum, *on or before the fifteenth day of February*, 1875, shall be entitled to the advantage of our previous offer. And our Agents are instructed to settle with delinquent subscribers upon these terms.

A Brief Retrospect.

The year which recently closed has not been prolific of great and startling events to embellish the pages of history. During its entire round the peace between the civilized nations of the world has been preserved, and save the contests based upon partisan or dynastic issues which have been going on in Cuba and Spain and in some other places, the world has been remarkably free from the scourge of war. Spain has been the scene of carnage and bloodshed which has been waged with varying success between the Republic and the Carlists, but with no substantial results on either side, until the close of the year when the bottom of the Republic suddenly dropped out leaving the civil war to be continued between two factions of the same family. The Spanish Government has been unable to crush out the rebellion in Cuba and the insurgents are stronger than they were at the beginning of the year. France has no decided Government, and the little she has seems more vacillating and unsubstantial, if possible, than it did a year ago. It is hard telling what a day may bring forth. It is nominally a Republic to-day, but it may become an Empire to-morrow. Italy is progressing finely and the work of reform is steadily going on. Germany is vigorously waging war against the Vatican, and that country and Italy are yearly becoming more and more divorced from the Catholic church, and are paving the way for ecclesiastical supremacy.

In England, near the beginning of the year, Mr. Gladstone found a majority of Parliament against him, and in accordance with custom he retired and his political opponent Disraeli formed a new ministry. Mr. Gladstone was returned to Parliament but British politics have since been uninteresting. Mr. Gladstone recently opened his batteries upon Rome and its aggressive policy, which has created no little excitement on both sides of the water. His pamphlet has had an immense sale and its discussion is now uppermost in both political and ecclesiastical circles, but his position is impregnable and the blow to the Papal dogma of infallibility is a staggering one. The year has not been marked by any great reforms in Russia or by any events of a startling character. Turkey has been practicing upon the knowledge of torpedoes which she gained from England, and has shown great activity in raising troops and providing military stores. She is evidently preparing to resist any encroachments upon her dominion which the Czar may be disposed to make. The war cloud passed away from China and Japan without bloodshed, and both of these countries are becoming more and more enamored of the civilization which is changing their entire social system and destroying their faith in their ancient traditions. Progressive ideas have taken the place of conservatism, and soon these Oriental nations will take high rank among the civilized people of the world. Greenland celebrated her millennial in August, and now the entire population are thinking seriously of emigrating to Alaska, having become convinced that theirs is not the most delectable country on the face of the Globe.

In the South American States there have been insurrections and disturbances, though not to the usual extent. The Argentine Republic with which the United States has an important trade, has crushed out a rebellion which at one time threatened to subvert the legitimate Government. Mexico has made steady progress during the year and comparative order has prevailed.

In the United States the financial problem and Southern troubles have about equally divided public attention, and a satisfactory adjustment of either of these troublesome questions does not appear to be near. Business has been depressed throughout the year, not so much on account of the scarcity of money as of the uncertainty respecting its value. We hope the recent financial measure may have a tendency to restore confidence and give a new impulse to business. The Southern disturbances still continue and an effectual remedy does not yet appear to have been found.

We suppose, however, that all these difficulties will be adjusted in time. They are legacies bequeathed to us by the war against slavery, and the war itself was the result of slavery. We have no right to complain for we are only doing penance for our national sins of which our sectional difficulties are the legitimate fruits. In time these differences will adjust themselves, and then we may reasonably look for a season of prosperity. Let us hope that some progress in this direction may be made during the year on which we have now fairly started.

☞ A correspondent of the Portland *Advertiser* says the Knickerbocker Ice Company of Philadelphia have over five hundred men at work putting up ice on the Kennebec river. The ice is of excellent quality, fourteen inches thick. They ran in six thousand tons of clear hard ice in eight hours on Thursday. They are running one chain at their Smithtown houses, two chains at the south houses in Farmingdale, and one at the Chelsea house. The company will put up over one hundred thousand tons on the Kennebec river this winter, and have twenty thousand tons of old ice on hand.

This Company is a great benefit to the laboring men on the Kennebec, giving employment to a large number of men the year round. Their pay roll is over *one thousand dollars per day*, and expenses on the river over one hundred thousand dollars per annum. The following amount of ice has been shipped the past season: From the Kennebec above Richmond, 196,200; Richmond, 63,501; Bowdoinham, 6,600; Bath and Phipsburg, 20,000. Total, 268,301 tons. Number of vessels, 678.

☞ After a full hearing in the case of Joshua Ellis and wife of Sidney, charged with arson by setting fire to the dwelling house of John S. Trask, the respondents were discharged. The trial occupied the entire day Wednesday.

CITY NEWS AND GOSSIP. Mrs. Simon O'Hier, died very suddenly Sunday night of heart disease. She resided on Chestnut street.——Wong Chinfoo, the Chinese lecturer, spoke at Granite Hall Sunday evening to a fair audience. His subject was "Confucius and the Habits and Customs of the Chinese." He speaks very good English and was listened to with marked attention.——One of the horses belonging to the City Team, died last week. He was purchased last season and cost about $500.——The following are the intentions of marriage entered at the City Clerk's office for the year 1874: January, 12; February, 6; March, 4; April, 9; May, 15; June, 8; July, 5; August, 9; September, 10; October, 7; November, 12; December, 12. Total, 109.——The ladies of this city visited several liquor saloons Monday, and requested the proprietors to give up their nefarious business.——The sleighing is excellent in the country.——The newly elected officers of Asylum Lodge were installed Friday evening by W. E. Hogan of Bath.——We learn that the Amateur Minstrels of Bangor, will give an entertainment in this city on the evening of Jan. 21st.——The press of Maine was well represented at the State House at the organization of the Legislature last week.——E. W. Webb has opened a Fish Market in the store recently occupied by Mr. W. Wendenburg.——Rev. W. H. H. Murray will give the second lecture of the Library Course, at Granite Hall, on Tuesday evening next. Evening tickets 50 cents, for sale at the Eastern Express office.——The railway facilities are such that most of the members of the Legislature, are able to spend the Sabbath with their families.——It is said that the members of the Kennebec bar, have signed a petition for the enlargement of the Court House. The lawyers are not the only persons interested in this business; the other tax payers may have something to say on the subject.——Water is very low in the cisterns and the Kennebec is called upon to make up the deficiency.——A few days ago, Miss Jane H. Hartwell fell on the icy side-walk and broke her leg near the ankle.——Ice of excellent quality is now being stored for private use.——The applications for pardons of the following convicts in the State Prison, have been referred to the next Executive Council: Harvey Bartlett, Enos A. Maxwell, Thomas D. Pinkham, Luther Smith, Thomas Ranco, Wm. Wilbur, Charles Wilkinson, Samuel T. Woodman and Frank D. Martin.——The Portland *Press* says that as Mr. Henry Dike of Augusta was passing the store of G. W. Rich & Co., on Fore street, Friday, a big icicle, suspended from the eaves, broke and fell, striking Mr. Dike on the side of the head, knocking him senseless, and inflicting a bad scalp wound. Who is Mr. Dike?——The Universalist Sociable will be held at the residence of Mrs. Faught, this (Thursday) afternoon and evening.——Mr. D. M. Waitt commenced an evening school Wednesday evening.——This (Thursday) evening is the last of the Catholic Fair.——The old Directors of the Granite Bank were re-elected Tuesday.——Sheriff Libby arrested Tuesday in Sidney, Joshua Ellis and Emily B. Ellis, charged with setting fire to the dwelling house of John S. Trask, in that town, on the night of the 29th of December last.——Rev. J. W. Hinds, who recently passed the "Royal Arch," was visited Wednesday evening by a party of his Chapter brethren, and presented with the emblem of the degree, a beautiful keystone.——The Maine Centennial Board will meet at the Augusta House on the evening of the 20th inst.

☞ At a caucus of the Republican members of the Legislature holden Thursday evening, Hannibal Hamlin was renominated as a candidate for United States Senator. This nomination is equivalent to an election, as the Republicans have a large majority in the Legislature. The vote in the caucus stood as follows: Hamlin 79; Washburne 28; Perham 9; Drummond 9. The name of Judge Peters was withdrawn before the balloting commenced. Mr. Hamlin was first elected to the United States Senate in 1848, for four years, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John Fairfield. He was re-elected in 1851, but resigned in 1857, and was elected Governor. The same year he was re-elected to the Senate and occupied a seat then until 1861, when he resigned to accept the position of Vice President of the United States, having been elected in 1860 on the ticket with Abraham Lincoln. In 1869 he was again elected to the United States Senate, and on the 19th of the present month, he will again be chosen, making his fifth election as United States Senator. Mr. Hamlin is now sixty-six years old.

☞ His many friends in this city will be surprised and saddened, to learn of the death of Thadeus M. Mason, Esq., at his residence in Boston. He had during the summer a slight attack of apoplexy, but for several months past, appeared greatly improved in health, when on Sunday morning last, he was suddenly stricken with another attack, and lingered in an unconscious condition until Monday morning at 1 o'clock, when he breathed his last. Mr. Mason was born in Northboro', Mass., but has been a citizen and engaged in business in Boston for many years. For the past six years he has had charge of the Wadawanuck House, a summer resort at Stonington, Conn., and has been eminently successful in that capacity. He died at the age of 52 years, and leaves a wife (sister of the wife of Hon. Sylvanus Caldwell of this city) and one son. The remains will arrive in this city for interment this (Thursday) afternoon. Services in Forest Grove Cemetery by Rev. J. W. Hinds, at 4 1-2 P. M.

THE YEAR'S WORK AT THE STATE PRISON. The Rockland Free Press says: "The last business year of the Maine State Prison has unavoidedly been less successful than previous ones, owing to the serious interruptions which have occurred. In December of last year the carriage factory and paint shop were consumed involving a heavy loss, and subjecting the employment of the prisoners thereafter to a great disadvantage. In the winter came the special investigation ordered by the Legislature, embarrassing work two or three weeks; and during the summer the erection of a new building to replace the one destroyed by fire has of course been another great detriment to profitable pursuit of the usual employments. With all these disadvantages aside from the depressed condition of business in the outside world, the prison will fall short of paying its way by only about twenty-six or twenty-eight hundred dollars.

AN ARCTIC WAVE. From Sunday to Wednesday the entire northern half of the country was submerged by an arctic wave, and the cold in many places was very severe. Monday morning the mercury stood at 18 below zero at Brunswick, and 16 below at Richmond and Farmington. A person who came down on the early train on the Grand Trunk, found it 28 below at Danville Junction. At Toronto it was 25 below and in Omaha 23 below. There were few if any places in the northern or western States where the glasses did not indicate a greater or less distance below zero. In Augusta the mercury stood at 18 degrees below zero at the Insane Hospital and dropped to 22 at other points in the city. On Tuesday morning the lowest point recorded in this city was 26 below.

☞ Howard Owen, Esq., of the Kennebec *Journal*, has our thanks for a copy of the Biographical Sketches of members of the present Legislature, compiled by him with great care, and published in pamphlet form, uniform with others of the series which have preceded it. The list is valuable for present reference, and like wine it grows more valuable with the lapse of time.

THE DEATH PENALTY. Among the many excellent tenets which go make up the simple creed of the Society of Friends, though negatively expressed, is their opposition to the death penalty. Upon this subject they have always taken broad and enlightened ground, and though accused of being conservative in their views, yet in all humanitarian matters they have always occupied an advanced position. While other religious sects of much greater pretensions to the Christian name, have adhered strictly to the law of retaliation in the treatment of criminals, and have professed to find in the Bible the proofs to sustain their position, the Friends, whose faith in the teachings of that sacred book is equally well grounded, are able to find nothing there but the doctrines of forgiveness and love.

We have before us a little unpretentious pamphlet, issued from the Friends' Publishing House at New Vienna, Ohio, and written by W. G. Hubbard, in which the scriptural doctrine relating to capital punishment is ably elucidated and explained. It is a valuable contribution to the argument against strangling, and in aid of the grand march toward a higher and better civilization. It is by such arguments as these that mankind are to be taught that the Divine purpose of punishment is not retributive, but precautionary; not retaliatory, but reformatory; and that brutal cruelty or extreme punishment does not humanize him who suffers, him who inflicts, or him who witnesses it; and that the strongest safeguard for life, under any and all circumstances, is its sanctity; and it is because many good and candid people ground their belief in the justice and necessity of enforcing the death penalty in the doctrines of the Bible, as expounded to them, that such treatises as the one before us may be productive of good, in directing the mind into new channels of thought and thereby aiding them in adopting more liberal and enlightened views.

For ourselves, we have never regarded the Bible doctrines upon this subject as of any great importance, one way or the other, and if the scriptures of the Old Testament unmistakeably taught what the believers in the death penalty claim they teach—though we feel sure that where rightly translated and interpreted they will be found to teach no such thing—it would not have the least influence in controlling our action or in influencing our convictions on this subject.

We are opposed to hanging, because we believe it demoralizes and brutalizes, and is productive of much more crime than it prevents. It is proved by carefully compiled statistics that a wave of crime always follows in the wake of an execution. We are opposed to it because we believe that all punishment was designed, and should be meted out, with a view to its restraining and reformatory effect, and should be carried no further than to fulfil its mission. When carried beyond that, it becomes revenge, and its moral influence is lost. It is a relic of barbarism, and belongs to the times of the rack and the inquisition, and the sooner it is done away with, the sooner will our race be elevated to a higher plane of civilization and morality.

We look hopefully, if not not with entire confidence, to the present legislature to repeal the present obnoxious statute, and in its stead give us a law that will be a greater safe-guard to human life, by recognizing its sanctity. We are all working to the same end and for the same object, the difference being that persons disagree with regard to the best means for accomplishing it. Our objective point is the prevention of crime, and the protection of human life. The question should be discussed dispassionately and without prejudice, and when it is so discussed, and facts and figures are carefully considered, we have no fears for the result.

A petition has been already presented to the Legislature asking for a repeal of the death penalty, signed by three hundred members of the Society of Friends, and embraces the names of those prominent in the society in all the quarterly meetings held in the State. Prominent among them are Eli Jones of China, Moses Bailey of Winthrop, Timothy B. Hussey of North Berwick, Geo. Douglass of Portland, Nathan Douglass of Durham, Samuel Taylor of Fairfield, Wm. Taber of Unity, Thomas B. Nichols, J. D. Lang, and Dr. C. B. Cates of Vassalboro', Wm. Jacob and Stephen Jones of China. We hope the movement will be followed up by others who agree with them, until a public sentiment shall find expression too strong to be safely or successfully resisted.

☞ The President sent a message to the House in response to an enquiry respecting affairs in Louisiana, Wednesday. The document is quite lengthy and was received too late for us to give more than brief notice of it in this number. The President reviews briefly the troubles which have existed in the State since the close of the war, and especially since the election in 1872. This part of the document contains few facts which are not already known to the reader.

In relation to the act of the military in dispersing the Legislature, the President says:

"I have no knowledge or information which has not been received by me since that time and published. My first information was from the papers, on the morning of the fifth. I did not know that any such thing was anticipated, and no orders or suggestions were ever given to any military officer in the State upon that subject prior to the occurrence. I am well aware that any military interference by the officers or troops of the United States with the organization of a State Legislature, or any of the proceedings, or with any civil department of the government, are repugnant to our ideas of government. I can conceive of no case involving rebellion or insurrection, where such interference by authority of the General Government ought to be permitted, or can be justified; but there are circumstances connected with the late legislature imbroglio in Louisian, which seems to exempt the military from any intentional wrong in that matter, knowing that they had been placed in Louisiana to prevent domestic violence, and aid to repress it."

☞ A correspondent at Hampden (G. H. S.), says that persons whose business necessitates their being on the road during the night, are well aware that it is almost impossible and oftentimes dangerous to drive at a rate faster than a slow trot, especially during stormy nights when the darkness is so thick as to be almost felt. All this inconvenience and danger can be obviated at a small expense by procuring a bull's-eye or dark lantern, and attaching it to the fore part of the wagon, which can be readily done. Such a lantern costs one dollar and is so made that it can not be extinguished by the wind, while all the light is thrown directly ahead of the carriage, thus rendering the road plainly visible for a distance of three or four rods. This allows driving nearly as fast in the night as in the day. The advantage of this kind of lantern over the common one is in the fact that all the light is thrown in one direction.

☞ The task of compiling and publishing the Transactions of the Maine Editors' and Publishers' Association was committed to Mr. Joseph Wood of Wiscasset, the Secretary of the Association, and the duty has been very faithfully and judiciously performed. The pamphlet is systematically arranged and handsomely printed.

☞ A subscriber, Mr. Jonathan Bagley of Troy, Me., in a note accompanying a year's subscription to the FARMER, says: "I am ninety-three years old the eighth of this month, and am yet able to do considerable work; if you have any older subscribers, I would like to hear from them." Nonagenarian subscribers are entitled to the floor.

☞ A call has been issued for a State Temperance Convention, to assemble at Meonlan Hall in this city, on Thursday Jan. 21st, at 11 o'clock A. M. The leading temperance men of the State are expected to be present. The usual reduction of fare will be made on the railroads.

THE SUBSIDY INVESTIGATION. On account of the absorbing interest which is now felt in affairs in Louisiana, public attention may have been withdrawn somewhat from the interesting investigation, which is now going on into the means employed for carrying through the Subsidy bill. We have called it an interesting investigation, because it is one in which the entire people of the country are interested, though its results may be as humiliating to our pride, as were the developements in the case of the Union Pacific Railroad and Credit Mobilier.

The term subsidy in the bill to which we have referred and in others of a similar character, is used in a somewhat technical sense, and relates to moneys paid out by the United States for extraordinary services. In the present instance, it is a sum of money paid to a steamship company for carrying the Pacific mails. The sum required to subsidize a corporation for long and dangerous mail service, is often large, and this investigation demonstrates the fact that it affords an opportunity for an almost unlimited amount of swindling.

The subsidy bill for securing the transportation of the Pacific mails, was passed by the last Congress, and the infamous means employed for securing its passage, was unknown, save to those engaged in it, until the company chose a new Board of Directors. An examination of the Company's books was then made, which showed that large sums of money variously estimated at from two to three millions of dollars, had been used to secure the passage of the bill, or for some other illegitimate purpose, and it became a matter of importance to the Company's offices, to know what had become of it. The matter was brought to the notice of Congress and an investigation became necessary, with the view of ascertaining whether any member had been bribed to vote for the bill. The investigation was ordered in February last. Three-fourths of a million of the abstracted funds have been traced to a well known Washington lawyer and lobbyist, named Irwin, who was summoned before the committee, and although admitting that he received the money and paid out portions of it to members of Congress, he declined to give names and other information which he was able to give, and was committed for contempt. Irwin said he paid as high as $275,000 to one member of Congress, though he declined to state for what purpose it was given. Mr. W. S. King, at that time Post-master of the House of Representatives, is supposed to have had the handling of $150,000 of this money, and Richard Parsons, formerly Marshal of the Supreme Court, but now a member of Congress from Ohio, is accused of disbursing $93,000. The person who received the large sum of $275,000, is now known to be Mr. Schumacher, member of Congress from Brooklyn, N. Y., and in his testimony before the committee, he states that he sent a portion of the amount back to the Company and paid the balance to a Washington lawyer to be disbursed among lobbyists, who claimed to have been of service in securing an increase of the subsidy. The purpose of the committee, is to ascertain just what members sold themselves to the support of the Subsidy bill.

There is no greater swindler than the professional lobbyist, and there is no doubt that in very many instances, when money is placed in their hands to be used in influencing Congressional action, it never goes beyond their pockets, and the action of Congress is precisely what it would have been, if the money had not been paid out. In this case, there is no doubt that Irwin and his associates feathered their own nests from the $750,000 which passed into their hands, although more than half of it is shown to have been paid by Irwin into the hands of two Congressmen.

If Congress would pass a law to banish every professional lobbyist from the District, and enforce it, there would be much less cause for investigation into the official conduct of members, than there now is. It is the business of the lobbyist to magnify his importance in the eyes of those who are interested in measures before Congress, and many of the reports of bribery come from them, although it must be admitted that we have had some cases of a different character. If there is a patent to be renewed, and manufacturers are opposed to its renewal, it is too commonly the case for them to raise money and send a person to Washington to arrange with the lobby, this being regarded as an indispensable preliminary. Large sums are often thus paid out, for services which are never rendered. The lobbyist receives and pockets the money, makes fair promises, which he has no intention of keeping, and seldom interferes with measures he has engaged to oppose. It is thus that he works at his trade, and is interested in making it appear that the lobby can bribe and manage Congressmen as it pleases, and his employes go away, fully persuaded that Congressmen are bribed to vote for questionable measures, and that it takes a large amount of money to get certain bills through.

For the credit of the nation, we wish that the investigation into the passage of the Subsidy bill, might prove it to be one of the class we have just mentioned, but we fear it may be otherwise. We trust that the investigation may be such as to bring out all the facts in the case, and if guilt shall be fixed upon any member of Congress beyond a reasonable doubt, let him be summarily dealt with. It will not be enough that he be censured; he should be expelled and otherwise punished, according to the magnitude of his crime. The confidence of the people in the integrity of Congress, has been terribly shaken within two or three years, and prompt and decided action in dealing with every case of malfeasance, alone can restore it.

FIRES IN MAINE. According to recently published statistics, there have been in Maine during the year, 238 fires, involving a loss of $1000 each and upward. The largest number took place in November, when thirty-one occurred, and the smallest number in June, when ten fires took place. The city of Bangor has suffered more by fire during the year than any other place in the State, the amount of property destroyed exceeding $200.000. Other cities have been remarkably exempt from such visitation. The monthly losses of property are as follows: January, $139,100; February, $42,150; March, $82,300; April, $222,900; May, $89,400; June, $36,500; July, $58,500; August, $75,300; September, $27,700; October, $38,600; November. $83,300; December, $103,200. Total loss $988,650, on which there was an insurance of about one-half. The heaviest loss took place in the month of April, and the smallest loss in October.

☞ Rodolphus D. Smiley, Esq., a prominent citizen of the neighboring town of Sidney, died suddenly on Friday night of heart disease. For many years he has been a trader, his business connections extending through several of the best towns in the county, where he was well and favorably known. He has been largely interested in shipping produce to Massachusetts, and in this way was of great benefit to the farmers in finding a good market for what they raised. His dealings with his fellowmen were straightforward and honorable, and he leaves to his relatives the best of all legacies, a good name. He was not far from 54 years of age.

☞ The Maine Poultry Association commenced its Second Annual Exhibition at Portland, Tuesday, under the most favorable auspices. The number of birds on exhibition far exceeds that of last year and the attendance promises to be large. A list of exhibitors in the Portland papers, fills half a column. We shall be able to give a full account of the show next week.

Editor's Table.

The Communistic Societies of the United States; From Personal Observation; Including Accounts of the Economists, Zoarites, Shakers, The Amana, Oneida, Bethel, Aurora, Icarian, and other Existing Societies, their Religious Creeds, Social Practices, Numbers, Industries and Present Conditions. By Charles Nordoff. New York; Harper & Brothers, Publishers. Portland, sold by Bailey & Noyes. 8 vo. pp. 432, 1875.

The lengthy and comprehensive title to this volume, sufficiently indicates its character, while the name of the author is a sufficient guaranty of the ability of the work.

The Ugly-Girl Papers: or, Hints for the Toilet. New York; Published by Harper & Brothers, and for sale in Portland by Bailey & Noyes.

This series of articles was first published in Harper's Bazar, and brought the writer into friendly bearings with the readers of that sheet. In the attractive form in which it is now presented, it will find many new readers and admirers.

Ismailia: A Narrative of the Expedition to Central Africa, for the Suppression of the Slave Trade. Organized by Ismail Khedive of Egypt. By Sir Samuel Baker, F. R. S. &c. Illustrated. New York; Published by Harper & Brothers. Sold in Portland by Bailey & Noyes. 8 vo. pp. 542, 1875.

The first practical step towards the suppression of the slave trade in Central Africa, was an expedition organized by the Khedive of Egypt and commanded by Sir Samuel Baker. Our readers have been kept advised of the movements of this expedition and of its results, but in the volume before us, a detailed statement is given of the entire movement from its inception to its successful close, together with graphic descriptions of the country and its people.

Remains of Lost Empires: Sketches of the Ruins of Palmyra, Nineveh, Babylon and Persepolis, with Some Notes on India, and the Cashmerian Himalayas. By P. V. N. Myers, A. M. New York, Harper & Brothers. Portland, Bailey & Noyes.

The journey of which this book is a narrative, was performed by the author and his brother, during the years 1871—2. The latter was stricken down with fever and was buried in the Isle of Ceylon. He was a devoted naturalist, and the author says if he had lived to have aided in making up the narrative, the volume would have been impressed with a different character. The volume before us is well written, and to the student of history it will prove a valuable help.

The Political, Personal and Property Rights of a Citizen of the United States. By Theophilus Parsons, LL.D. Hartford, Conn.; Published by S. S. Scranton & Co., 1874.

The above volume has just been issued, and is an exhaustive treatise on the subjects indicated in the title. It contains nearly seven hundred and fifty pages, and yet it is concisely written containing few words that could well be dispensed with. The work is sold by subscription and no business man can well afford to be without a copy.

☞ From Messrs. Bailey & Noyes we have received "Lost for Love," and "In Honor Bound," being numbers 423 and 427 of Harper's Library of Select Novels. The former is by Miss M. E. Braddon, and the latter by Charles Gibbon, both well known and popular novelists.

☞ J. Frank Pierce has laid upon our table the following pieces of new music, from the well known publishing house of Oliver Ditson & Co.: "Etoile du Soir;" "The Son of the Prophet;" "Under the Oaks;" "The Wanderer on the Mountain Side;" "Vocal Beauties of Don Munio;" "Night and Morning;" "The Dream at Twilight;" "Ave Maria."

DECLINE OF THE IRON TRADE. The iron trade of the country, not even in the gloomy days of 1858, was never in such a prostrate condition as at present, and its immediate future prosperity, is most unpromising. Only two years ago, 600 blast furnaces were unable to supply the demand for iron. In 1873, they turned out by estimate 2,500,000 tons while the estimated consumption of the country was fully up to 4,000,000. This year it is believed that the product will not exceed 1,500,000 tons, and the imports of all kinds of iron and steel will not be in excess of 150,000 tons. There is a reluctance to engage in new enterprises, in which iron is a component part. For many years the building and equipping of railroads has proceeded at the rate of 8,000 miles a year. This has now almost entirely ceased. Not only has construction ceased, even repairing is much less than usual. To keep the 80,000 miles of railroad track now in use, simply in proper repair, calls for an annual supply of at least 1,250,000 tons of iron, but of this amount it is supposed less than a million will be used or contracted for this year. The rolling mills are, if any thing, in a worse condition. The labor troubles, incident to wages will seriously impair production, and operate disadvantageously in every respect. It is in vain to expect that Congress can do any thing which will immediately affect industry or cure the evils so wide spread. The most that can be done, will be to instigate some "make shift" policy for the appearance of the thing, and leave business to recuperate through natural causes, slow in their operations, inducing a change only with the lapse of time.

☞ The following is the call issued by the President, George W. Drisco, Esq., of the Machias *Union*, for the annual meeting of the Maine Editors' and Publishers' Association:

The annual meeting of the Association of Editors and Publishers of Maine will be held at Augusta, Wednesday, Jan. 20th, beginning at seven o'clock, P. M., and continue the next day and evening.

This Meeting is one for business and matters will be considered and discussed connected with and affecting the Publishing and Printing interests of the State.

Hon. L. A. Emery of the Ellsworth *American*, will deliver an Essay, probably afternoon of the second day, subject: "*The Newspaper before the Law.*"

The Postal Law: Pre-payment of postage on newspapers by the publishers; Advertising Rates and Agencies will be considered.

Thursday evening the members of the Association and their ladies will be tendered a Reception at the house of Rev. Dr. Quinby, of the *Gospel Banner*.

A full attendance of members is requested. Publishers and printers not members are invited to be present at the meeting and become members of the Association.

☞ It appears by the testimony of Mr. Abert before the Pacific Mail Subsidy Committee, that four newspapers, the Philadelphia *Press*, the Boston *Transcript*, the Washington *Capitol* and the Washington *Chronicle* are compromised through their Washington representatives. There is no pretence that the proprietors of the *Transcript* were in any way connected or knowing to their correspondent's operations, for the latter, Mr. W. B. Shaw states that the $15,000 he received was for furnishing information as to the prospect of the subsidy in the House to Irwin and Stockwell. McFarland, the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, says that the $25,000 he received was paid to Col. Forney who took and kept it all. The Washington *Chronicle* money was paid when the paper was edited by J. M. Morris, and of course in no way compromises the present proprietors. Don Piatt says he only borrowed his $5.000 and that it was paid back. The other parties implicated are ex-Postmaster General Randall and J. G. Berritt, ex-Mayor of Washington, and Boyd and Hersey, the door keepers of the House.

☞ A special from Topeka states that Joseph B. North alias Buffalo Joe, who murdered George Jones on Christmas eve, a year ago, was hanged by mob on the night of the 30th of December, at Wallace, Kansas. The knot of the rope caught under the chin and did not choke him. He hung this way a long time talking to the mob, imploring them to release him, but received only jeers in return. He did not die for over two hours, and finally froze to death.

KENNEBEC COUNTY ITEMS. Mr. Edward G. Parker, formerly of Fayette, has recently returned to his native State. During an absence of nearly nine years business has called him through several of the Western States and territories. He is now on a visit to his father in Fayette, and has taken up a permanent residence in Cheyenne, Wyoming territory.——J. M. Kilgore, of Gardiner, was last Wednesday thrown from a wagon, and received a severe wound in the temple.——Jas P. Rhines, of Gardiner, while splitting wood Monday, struck the axe in the forefinger on his left hand, cutting into the bone. He had just got to work from an accident to his wrist.——On Monday night an unoccupied house in Sidney, near Bacon's corner, was burned to the ground. The house was owned by Jethro Weeks. An investigation is being had as to the cause of the fire.——Mrs. Sarah Gilman of Hallowell, where she has lived for over forty-nine years, is now in her 77th year, and has been absent only a few months during the entire half-century. The well on the premises was dug during Christmas week, forty-nine years ago, without the obstruction of frost.——Mrs. L. P. Moody of Winthrop, had her artificial hair set on fire by a stereoscope, and the house barely escaped destruction. It wasn't on her head.——R. S. Austin, engineer on the M. C. R. R., who was injured in the leg at the accident at Belgrade, May 29th, 1871, has made through his attorney, Hon. E. F. Webb, a satisfactory settlement with the company.——The Waterville National Bank has re-elected its officers, as follows:—D. L. Milliken, President; James Stackpole, T. G. Kimball, Francis Low, E. F. Webb, Elias Milliken, I. S. Bangs, Directors; E. L. Getchell, Cashier. This bank has just made a semi-annual dividend of five per cent.——The total receipts of the North Kennebec Agricultural Society for the year were $1019,65; total expenditures $1017,65. Of these receipts $33.42 came from the former treasurer; $146,43 from the state; $370 from members; $466,80 from sale of tickets &c. Amount now in the treasury $2.——There are 82 students at Colby University, classified as follows: 16 Seniors, 12 Juniors, 22 Sophomores, and 33 Freshmen. The largest Freshmen class of any college in the state.——J. K. Osgood of Gardiner, so well known as a leader in the temperance movement, has just returned from Connecticut where he has been very successful in lecturing and organizing temperance clubs under the auspices of the "National Temperance Camp Meeting Association."

THE SCANDAL SUIT. The Tilton-Beecher case opened Monday. The names of the jurors were called, and all found to be present. Messrs Tilton and Beecher were both present. Soon after the opening of the case, Mr. Beecher's wife came into court, accompanied by her son. She was the only lady present.

Mr. Morris, the Counsel of Tilton, began his opening address to the jury, at half-past eleven o'clock. He began by saying that the trial was of interest to all the homes in Christendom. Tilton had charged the leading preacher of America with ruining his home and breaking up his family circle. This charge was not made against an ordinary man. Beecher was Tilton's spiritual adviser, and was the clergyman who had officiated at his marriage. Hence the charge was all the more serious.

In the opening, which occupied two days and a half in the delivery, Mr. Morris stated the principal points in the case, referring to the letters, confessions &c., most of which have already been published. Mr. Beecher gave good attention to the remarks of the learned Counsel, and took notes of the leading points. Mrs. Beecher, Mrs. Tilton and other lady friends of Mr. Beecher, were in attendance upon the trial on Tuesday.

At the conclusion of Mr. Morris' opening, on Wednesday, Frank D. Moulton took the stand; and occupied the remainder of the day with his testimony. The trial will probably occupy several weeks.

REPUDIATING TOWN DEBTS. The Boston *Journal* says that when a town has "put its foot in it" by making a loan to a railroad or manufacturing enterprise, and the enterprise subsequently collapses, it is natural that an effort should be made to evade the obligations assumed. The town of Lansing, New York, and several neighboring towns which issued bonds to assist the construction of the Midland road—an enterprise which has entirely failed—are declining to pay the coupons of the bonds issued by them. The plea is of irregularity in the issue, but as the Federal Courts reject the plea of technical irregularities, it is probable that the towns will have to meet their debts, and the cost of litigation, into the bargain. This is as it should be. The only way for towns to keep out of difficulties of this kind is to refuse to lend their credit for the benefit of private enterprises. But when they have committed the fatal error of piling up a debt, by borrowing money for such purposes, they will not better matters by attempting to shuffle out of their responsibilities. The only way then is to face the music.

BOWDOIN ALUMNI. The annual meeting and dinner of the Alumni Association of Bowdoin College, of Portland and vicinity, was held last Thursday evening at the Falmouth Hotel in Portland. Forty-two members were present, and a grand good time was enjoyed. Profs. Sewall and Young were present and made good speeches in behalf of the college. Messrs. J. C. Dodge and Cyrus Woodman from Boston, were of the number of those present. The oration was delivered by Hon. T. B. Reed, and the poem by F. M. Ray, Esq. Hon. John Rand was elected President of the Association, and C. P. Mattocks, Esq., orator for the ensuing year. The dinner was one of the most enjoyable occasions upon which the Association has ever assembled.

☞ We learn from the second annual report of the Secretary of the Maine Porgy Oil Association that the business has been unusually prosperous the past season, 2,621,861 barrels of fish being taken at the works, an increase of nearly 200,000 barrels over last year; 10,400 barrels have been secured for bait, and in addition nearly 2,000,000 gallons of oil have been made, and 19,000 tons of guano. This association embraces fourteen large establishments, with an aggregate capital of $706,500, employing 37 vessels and 22 steamers, and 865 men. Luther Maddocks, of the Atlantic Oil Works, Boothbay, is Secretary of the Association.

☞ The currency bill, an abstract of which we gave last week, has passed the House and as it had previously passed the Senate it now only awaits the signature of the President to become a law. Time will test its value and perhaps increase our faith in it, but much is left discretionary with the Secretary of the Treasury, and upon his action will depend largely its success or failure.

☞ Dr. Josiah Crosby, one of the most distinguished physicians in New Hampshire, died at his residence in Manchester last week. He was a son of Dr. Asa Crosby of Sandwich, N. H., and brother of the late Prof. Dixi and Alpheus Crosby. Dr. Crosby received his preliminary education at Fryeburg, Me., studied with his father and received his medical degree at Dartmouth College in 1816. He was 83 years of age.

FIRE IN BALTIMORE. The State Tobacco Warehouse situated on the Long Dock, in Baltimore, took fire shortly after eight o'clock, Thursday, and after burning fiercely over two hours, both buildings, with their contents, were completely destroyed. It is said that 2700 hogshead of tobacco were stored in the warehouses, the loss on which is estimated at $250,000. The loss on the buildings was $40,000.

Items of Maine News.

Mumps are prevailing in the Bangor schools.

A daily issue of the Rockland Opinion is promised soon by the publisher.

The number of deaths in Bangor for 1874 averaged one each day.

Benjamin Whitley, a soldier of the 1812 war, recently died in China, at the age of eighty-five years.

Dr. D. B. Strout of Lewiston challenges any advocate of capital punishment to a public discussion with him.

Daniel Grant, overseer of the Springvale mill machine shop, died suddenly of heart disease, Thursday morning.

It is understood that the European and North American Railway will narrow its gauge the coming spring.

One hundred and twenty-five intentions of marriage were recorded in Biddeford in 1874, against 187 in 1873.

Chas. R. Glover of Camden, was lost overboard at Cape Good Hope, Sept. 26th. He was 18 years of age.

Bangor boasts of the oldest sexton in the United States—Mr. Orin Favor, who has charge of the First Baptist church.

The Argus says that Mr. Joseph Bradbury of York, died suddenly of paralysis, Tuesday, aged 74 years.

Hon N. G. Marshall contemplates enlarging and otherwise improving the "Marshall House" near York beach.

John Roberts, Jr., of Alfred, slipped and fell a few days since, breaking one of his ankle bones.

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13.

At market for the current week—Cattle 1722; Sheep and Lambs 1015; Swine 6,750. Number of Western Cattle 1480. Northern Cattle and Working Oxen and Milch Cows, 250. Eastern Cattle 92.

BEEF CATTLE—Prices per 100 lbs. live weight, extra quality $7 50@8 00; first quality $6 75@7 25; second quality $6 25@6 50; third quality $5 25@6 00; poorest grade of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c. $3 75@5 00.

BRIGHTON HIDES—9@9c ₩ lb.; Brighton Tallow 5½@6c ₩ lb.

COUNTRY HIDES—8@c ₩ lb.; Country Tallow 5@c ₩ lb.

CALF SKINS—14@15c ₩ lb. Sheep and Lamb Skins $1@1 50 each.

The supply of Cattle from the West was not so large as that of one week ago. The quality of those from the West was full as good as those in at last market. Prices remain unchanged, and the trade for all grades has not materially changed from that of last market. There were some very nice Beeves in market, which sold at our highest quotations.—S. S. Learned bought 24 very nice Cattle, which were brought into market from Connecticut, 4 of them weighing 8910 ₩ live weight.

WORKING OXEN.—Trade for Working Oxen has been dull. A few pairs each week in all the market required during the winter months. We quote sales of 1 pr, gth 7 ft, live weight 3100 ₩s $190; 1 pr, 7 ft, 3200 ₩s, $165; 1 pr, 6 ft 8 in., 2800 ₩s, $165; 1 pr, 6 ft 6 in, 2450 ₩s, $155; 1 pr, 6 ft 7 in, 3050 ₩s, $140.

STORE CATTLE.—Yearlings $11@$15; two year olds $15@$27; three year olds $25@$45 ₩ head. Many of the small Cattle that are in a hair condition are sold for Beef.

MILCH COWS.—Extra $55@95; ordinary $25@50; Store Cows $18@45 per head. There are but few extra or fancy breed of Cows offered in market for sale, most of them being of an ordinary grade.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—From the West there was a large supply, all owned by butchers, costing landed at Brighton from 6¼@7¼c per ₩. From the North the supply was fair, prices ranging from 5@6c per ₩.

SWINE—Pigs, wholesale 7@8c per ₩; retail 7@10c per ₩. Fat Hogs 6600 in market; prices 8@8½c per ₩ live weight.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Jan. 13.

There has been a fair business doing in Wool the past week, and prices continued quite firm, and have an upward tendency for all domestic fleeces. Manufacturers have purchased to some extent, and we notice sales of 200,000 ₩s Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces at 53½@58c; 150,000 ₩s Michigan and Wisconsin at 49@53c; 150,000 ₩s Delaine and combing at 52½@62½c for washed and 41@45c for unwashed; 60,000 ₩s unwashed and unmerchantable fleeces at 32@41½c; 200,000 ₩s fall California at 19@20c; 30,000 ₩s spring do at 31@32c; 25,000 ₩s fub at 24@26c; 50,000 ₩s scoured at 46@92c; 18,000 ₩s noils at 28@55c; and 4500 ₩s sorts at 37½@40c per ₩.

Boston Market.

BOSTON, Jan. 13.

FLOUR AND GRAIN—The demand for Flour is steady but moderate, and prices remain about the same; we quote:

Western Superfine at $4 25@4 50; common extras at $4 50@5 00; Milwaukie and Minnesota extras at $5 25@5 75; white wheat Ohio, Indiana and Michigan at $5 50@6 50; Illinois at $5 50@7 00; St. Louis at $5 75@8 00 ₩ bbl. Southern Flour is quiet at $4 50@9 00 ₩ bbl. for common extras and choice family; and fancy Minnesota at $7 50@9 00 ₩ bbl. Corn is quiet at 87@91c ₩ bush. for mixed and yellow. Oats are firm at 66@72c ₩ bush. for brown and white. Rye at $1 00@1 10 ₩ bush. Shorts, Fine Feed and Middlings at $28@32 ₩ ton.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is steady; sales at $17 00@17 50 for prime; $21 00@21 50 for mess $23 00@24 00 ₩ bbl. for clear. Beef ranges from $10 50@13 50 mess and extra mess, and $16 00@17 00 ₩ bbl. for family. Lard 14½@14½c ₩ lb. for city and Western. Smoked Hams 12@13c ₩ lb. Butter sells at 25@42c ₩ lb. and Cheese from 12@16c ₩ lb. as to quality.

PRODUCE—Eggs have been selling at 34@35 per dozen. White Beans are dull at $1 75 for mediums; $2 25@2 30 for extra pea, and $3 per bushel for Yellow Eyes. Potatoes have been in better demand, with light receipts, and we notice a firmer feeling. The sales have been at 65@75c for Early Rose and 75@85c for Jackson White. Onions are selling at $2 50@2 75 per bush. The market is well supplied with Poultry but there is a fair demand at present low prices. The sales have been at 19@17c per ₩, as to quality, for Turkeys and Chickens.

HAY—There is no change to notice. Choice Eastern and Northern have been sold at $22@23 per ton; straw is selling at $13@19 per ton.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.

COTTON—Sales—bales—middling uplands $14¼.

FLOUR—Sales 8,852 bbls.—State $5 20@5 20; Round Hoop Ohio, $5 10@6 85; Western $4 75@5 10; Southern $5 00@4 75.

WHEAT—Sales 3,600 bush. No. 2 Milwaukie, $1 12½@1 12½; No. 3, $1 07½—; No. 1, Chicago, $1 21@1 31; No. 2, $1 08@1 09; No. 3, Mixed, $1 44; No. 3, $1 50; Winter Red, $1 25@1 27; Amber, $1 28@1 29; No. 1, Iowa, $1 08@1 25; White Michigan, $1 20@1 21; Winter Western, $1 25@1 28.

CORN—Sales 60,000 bushels. Western 87@88¢.

OATS—Sales 42,000 bushels—Western 68@69¢.

PORK—Sales 100 bbls. New Mess, $20 25@20 50.

LARD—Steam, 15½c; Kettle, 14c.

SUGAR—Refining, 8@8¼; Porto Rico, 7¾@8; Cuba, 8@8¼; Havana White, 9@—.

Gold and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.

Gold 112¼@112¾.

Money 2@3 per cent.

United States Sixes (coupons) 1881 118½; 5-20's 1862, 114½; 1864, 116½; 1865, 118½; 1865 (January and July), 117½; 1867, 118½; 1868, 118½; New 5's, 114½; 10-40's (coupons, 112½; Currency, 117½.

Augusta City Market.

THURSDAY, Jan. 14.

APPLES—Not much doing in apples during the past week, although the price is unchanged; Nice no. 1 fruit being in fair supply at $2 00@2 25 ₩ bbl.

BUTTER—Tub but ₩, of good quality, is plenty at 32c ₩ ₩; choice June and September make, in balls, 35c per ₩.

BEANS—Pea and Yellow Eyes at $2 50 per bush.

CHEESE—Factory 14c at wholesale; domestic 12@14c.

FLOUR—Superfine to common extra $6 50@7 50; Good brands at $7 50@8 00; choice Western $8 50; St. Louis favorite brands $9 00@11 00.

GRAIN—Corn $1 10; oats 65c; barley and rye, nominal.

HAY—Market fairly supplied; sales of choice loose made the past week at $14 00. Straw $7 per ton.

HIDES AND SKINS—Hides, 8c; calf skins, 13@15c; wool skins and lamb skins 75c@$1 25.

LIME—$1 30 ₩ cask.

MEAL—Corn $1 05; rye $1 75 ₩ bushel.

PRODUCE—Potatoes 45@50c; eggs 28@30c; lard 18c.

SHORTS—$1 75 per ane hundred pounds.

PROVISIONS—Clear salt pork, $25@30, ₩ 200 lbs; beef ₩ side 8@10c; round hog 9@10c; ham 14@16c; turkeys 15@18c; spring lamb 8@9c; veals 7@8c; mutton 7@8c; spring chickens 17@18c; geese 15c.

WOOL—Medium to fine, washed 40@45c; unwashed one fourth discount. Nominal.

WOOD—Hard wood, seasoned under cover, $6 00@6 00 ₩ cord; mill wood, delivered, $4 ₩ cord.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13.

APPLES—Green $1 50@2 50; dried 7@12c for Western; 8@12c for Eastern.

BEANS—We quote hand-picked pea beans at $2 75@3 00; yellow eyes, $3 00@3 25.

BUTTER—Selling at 35@40c for family. Store, from 30@35c ₩ lb.

CHEESE—Factory is selling at 16@17c ₩ lb; Vermont and New York Dairy, 16@15.

FISH—We quote large shore $5 50@5 75; large bank $5 25@5 50; small $3 75@4 50; pollock $3 00@4 00; hake $2 75@3 00 ₩ qtl; herring $4 25@5 00 ₩ bbl; scaled, ₩ box, 25@37c; mackerel ₩ bbl—Bay No. 3 to No. 1, $8 00@12 00; Shore Nos. 1 and 2, $9 00@14 00.

FLOUR—We quote Superfine, $5 00@5 50; Spring X and XX, $6 25@7 75; Michigan Winter X and XX, $7 00@8 25; Illinois X and XX, $6 75@9 00; St. Louis X and XX, $8 25@9 50.

GRAIN—We quote mixed Corn at $0 92 and yellow 0 95. Oats are worth 56@70c, fine feed at $35 ₩ ton, and shorts at $30 ₩ ton.

HAY—Loose, $16 00@20 00 ₩ ton for prime. Pressed selling at $19 00@20 00. Baled Straw $15 ₩ ton for prime.

LARD—Prime Western ₩ tierce, 15c ₩ ₩; per keg 15c; pail 16@16c.

PLASTER—White, ₩ ton, $3 00; blue $2 75; ground in bbls $8 00@9 00; calcined in bbls $2 75@3 00.

PRODUCE—We quote beef side at 9@13c; veal 8@10; mutton 12@13c; chickens 15@18c; turkeys 18@20c; eggs 30@31c; potatoes 60@75c ₩ bush; onions $3 50@3 75 ₩ bbl. Round hogs, 8@9.

PROVISIONS—We quote as follows: Mess beef, Chicago, $12 00@13 50; plate $15 00; extra plate $16 50@17 00; pork backs, $20 00; clear, $25 00@25 50; mess $23 00@25 00. Hams 12½@13c.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13.

BEANS—Yellow eyes $2 75@2 85 ₩ bush; hand-picked lots $2 75@3 00 ₩ bush.

BUTTER—Is worth from 28@35c ₩ lb, according to quality.

EGGS—Selling at 30c ₩ dozen.

HAY—Best qualities loose sell at $12 00@15 00 ₩ ton and pressed at $13 00@15.

GRAIN—Oats are now worth 65c ₩ bush; corn $1 00@1 06 ₩ bush.

POTATOES—Selling in the market at 60@65c ₩ bush

PROVISIONS—Good fresh beef, by the side worth 11@12c ₩ ₩; round hogs 10@11c; hams 8@9c.

HIDES AND SKINS—Lambs pelts $1 25@3 00 each. Hides 7@7½c ₩ lb.

WOOL—Selling dull at 30@45c per ₩.

THE LOSS OF BARQUE AMITY. The barque Amity, of Bath, Me., Captain Patten, before reported lost at sea with the master and most of the crew, while on the voyage from Philadelphia to Antwerp, had been three weeks out when the vessel became water-logged. Two seamen, the only survivors of the crew —twenty in number— were picked up by the Norwegian barque Norge, and landed at Queenstown (Ireland), Dec. 23. They state that the boats in which the men attempted to save their lives having capsized, those who escaped being drowned took to the rigging, but one after another was washed off until only four remained. Of these, two became insane from long suffering and refused to leave the rigging, when the Norwegian barque fortunately appeared on the scene, and by means of lines thrown from the long boat, provided means of safety for the shipwrecked men. The two others got on board the Norge, and soon afterward the water-logged vessel disappeared. Captain Patten belonged in Brunswick, Me.

☞ After a trial of a thousand years, the Icelanders have come to the conclusion that there are better places in the world than their sea-girt isle, and are preparing for a general emigration. Just before the celebration of their millenial anniversary, commissioners were sent out to find a new home for the nation. Since their fathers fled from oppression in Denmark, the commissioners continued the westward progress, and fixed on our new Alaska as likely to be a satisfactory home. The United States steamer "Portsmouth," was quite properly placed at their service for a visit to the territory, and they have recently returned with a favorable report of the country.

It is now to be seen whether the natives of Iceland, resolute and strong as they are, will prove equal to the supreme effort of utterly severing old ties and seeking new homes in another country.

Maine Legislature.

The business of the Legislature Thursday was not of general importance.

On Friday in the Senate the Committee on Senatorial Votes made a report which was accepted. The report declares elected, Messrs. Cross and Holbrook of the Cumberland District, and these were the only cases where there were any doubts respecting the election. An order was introduced and passed instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to enquire what legislation is necessary to compel the delinquent railroad companies to pay the State tax.

In the House a characteristic prayer was offered by Camp Meeting John Allen. An order was passed providing for printing two thousand copies of the Governor's Message.

Mr. Talbot introduced a resolve providing for the appointment of a Commission to propose amendments to the Constitution, and on his motion the rules were suspended and the resolve had its several readings and was passed. This action was had in accordance with a suggestion in the Governor's Message.

In Joint Convention of the two branches the State Officers, including Councillors which had been previously nominated, were elected and notified.

On Saturday there was no session and a large number of the members went to their homes.

On Monday the several committees were announced. We give the names only of the members of the most important committees.

The Committee on Ways and Means which is a House committee and takes the place of the Finance Committee of former days, was made up as follows:

Messrs. Reed of Bath, Cobb of Lewiston, Hall of Ellsworth, Hawes of Deering, Shepherd of Skowhegan, White of Bucksport, Davis of Portland.

The following comprise the most important of the Joint Standing Committees:

Agriculture—Messrs. Atwood of Waldo, Cushing of Knox, Lord of York, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Rogers of Windham, Hubbard of Berwick, Wheeler of Winthrop, Whitney of Dixmont, Fogg of Readfield, Stanley of Levant, Little of Brunswick, on the part of the House.

The Judiciary—Messrs. Emery of Hancock, Foster of Oxford, Swasey of Oxford, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Wilson of Bangor, Tapley of Saco, North of Augusta, Talbot of East Machias, Stevens of West Waterville, Cleaves of Portland, Keegan of Madawaska, on the part of the House.

Commerce—Messrs. Hyde of Sagadahoc, Goold of Cumberland, Kent of Lincoln, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Wheelwright of Bangor, Allan of Dennysville, Allen of Brooklyn, Sawyer of Millbridge, Simpson of Sullivan, Welt of Waldoboro', Blanchard of Yarmouth, on the part of the House.

Mercantile Affairs and Insurance—Messrs. Campbell of Washington, Goold of Cumberland, Hall of York, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Buck of Orland, Lyman of Machias, Folsom of Lyman, Whitney of Dixmont, Locke of Paris, Brackett of Cornish, Martin of Camden, on the part of the House.

Banks and Banking—Messrs. Rounds of Androscoggin, Hyde of Sagadahoc, Cushing of Knox, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Denison of Poland, Reed of Bath, Wheelwright of Bangor, Barnard of Calais, Pinkham of Chesterville, True of Portland, Watts of Thomaston on the part of the House.

Manufactures—Messrs. Cutler of Penobscot, Rounds of Androscoggin, Morrison of Penobscot, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Cobb of Lewiston, Walden of Portland, Fernald of Portland, Mitchell of Gardiner, Dodge of Freedom, Burpee of Rockland, Haines of Biddeford, on the part of the House.

Financial Affairs—Messrs. Holbrook of Cumberland, Palmer of Penobscot, Russell of Androscoggin, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Reed of Bath, Cobb of Lewiston, Hall of Ellsworth, Hawse of Deering, Shepherd of Skowhegan, White of Bucksport, Davis of Portland, on the part of the House.

Education—Messrs. Foster of Oxford, Corthell of Washington, Lord of York, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Tefft of Brewer, Shepherd of Showhegan, Stone of Bridgton, Gile of Alfred, Moulton of Scarboro', Grindle of Mt. Desert, Ferguson of Shapleigh, on the part of the House.

Railroads—Messrs. Hall of York, Palmer of Penobscot, Haskell of Cumberland, on the part of the Senate; McGilvery of Searsport, Snow of Hallowell, Wentworth of Kittery, Leavitt of Eastport, Walden of Portland, Morse of Bangor, Dutton of Lewiston, on the part of the House.

Insane Hospital—Messrs. French of Kennebec, Stevens of Somerset, Russell of Androscoggin, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Sturgis of Auburn, Porter of Newport, Smith of Whitefield, Colson of Monroe, Durell of Oxford, Pillsbury of Farmington, Roberts of Westbrook, on the part of the House.

Interior Waters—Messrs. Morrison of Penobscot, Cross of Cumberland, Atwood of Waldo, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Webster of Orono, Rogers of Windham, Johnson of Waterboro', McGilvery of Searsport, Denison of Poland, McKenney of Hollis, Weed of Veazie on the part of the House.

State Lands and State Roads—Messrs. Hinckley of Hancock, Cutler of Penobscot, Donworth of Aroostook, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Randall of Island Falls, Bennett of Bethel, Gilpatrick of Somerville, Oak of Garland, Macomber of Durham, Barker of Weston, Milliken of Baldwin, on the part of the House.

Ways and Bridges—Messrs. Palmer of Penobscot, Holbrook of Cumberland, Stevens of Somerset, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Judd of Presque Isle, Nutter of Corinna, Merrill of West Gardiner, Wagg of Auburn, Lamb of Harrison, Harmon of Thomaston, Clark of Wiscasset, on the part of the House.

Legal Affairs—Messrs. Donworth of Aroostook. Hinckley of Hancock, Prescott of Somerset, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Powers of Houlton, Barron of Topsham, Clark of Lincoln, Vose of Augusta, Leavitt of Eastport, Mason of Biddeford, Anderson of Gray, on the part of the House.

The matter of collecting the railroad tax will probably be vigorously pressed and a decision reached early in the session. This will be the only important railroad question to come before the Legislature.

In the Senate Friday Mr. Cutler introduced a bill for the abolition of the death penalty, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

In Joint Convention of the two branches the oath was administered to the several State officers elect.

In the House the annual report of the State Treasurer was accepted and referred; also a schedule of claims for bounties on wild animals. An order was passed providing that all petitions for legislation except for the redress of wrongs, &c., presented on and after Jan. 27th, be referred to the next Legislature..

An order requesting the Governor to postpone the execution of Wagner until the close of the Legislature was refused a passage.

A large batch of petitions were presented and referred and the committees will soon have plenty of work.

The Governor has made the following appointments as a commission to report amendments to the Constitution: Edward Kent of Bangor, William P. Haines of Biddeford, George F. Talbot of Portland, James C. Madigan of Houlton, Henry E. Robins of Waterville, Frederick A. Pike of Calais, Washington Gilbert of Bath, A. P. Gould of Thomaston, William M. Rust of Belfast, William K. Klmball of Paris.

The proceedings in the Senate were unimportant Wednesday.

The House reconsidered its vote by which the order relating to a reprieve of Wagner, was refused a passage. The order was then so amended as to request the Governor to postpone the execution till the third Friday in March and was passed 94 to 29. Numerous petitions were presented and referred to appropriate committees.

GREAT FARMS SPLITTING UP. If the current reports are correct quite a number of the great farmers in the West have yielded to the necessities of the times and split up their estates, selling off large sections which it has been costing them heavily to hold, and which they were able to cultivate but partially, and concentrating their energies upon the more thorough cultivation of the portion remaining. Increased taxation and high rates of interest have made it impossible for them to keep up such vast estates. Small farmers accordingly are taking the place of large ones, and the ultimate result must be more careful cultivation, increased productiveness and a more generally diffused prosperity.

Congressional Summary.

Forty-Third Congress.

THURSDAY, Jan. 7.

SENATE. A bill to remove the limitation restricting the circulation of banking associations, issuing notes payable in gold, which was reported from the finance Committee Tuesday last was passed.

The Senate then considered the resolution in regard to Louisiana affairs, submitted on Tuesday last by Mr. Thurman.

Mr. Hamilton of Maryland, said the people of the country might take alarm from the unprecedented character of the seizure of the State House in New Orleans. The information asked of the President by the resolution now before the Senate was desired by all, and he did not see why there would be any objection to passing it. The senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Howe) had asked, "what are you going to do in case the President did not answer the resolution." He (Mr. Hamilton) did not suppose that the President would decline to answer, but if he should Congress had the remedy. The army did not belong to the President, but it belonged to the people. If the President used the army for improper purpose, Congress could disband that army. It could refuse to vote supplies for it, and every armed soldier in the land could be dispersed by Congress. Every vessel of war now before New Orleans could be taken away by Congress. It required no articles of impeachment to do that, no two-thirds vote, but a simple majority of the representatives of the people could do so. That was the remedy of Congress against a despotic executive. He argued it was not the duty of soldiers to be arresting legislators and organizing legislatures. The people attended to that themselves. There never was a precedent for the action in Louisiana on Monday last. A usurping Governor of a state, for Kellogg was not Governor of Louisiana, commanded the army of the United States in that state, and by his order that army expelled the members of the Legislature. No one could tell when this thing would be repeated. The Governor of a state had nothing to do with the organization of a Legislature, that matter resting with the Legislature itself.

The Senator from Indiana (Morton) was flying the bloody flag again. He (Hamilton) would remind him there were no elections now except in Connecticut and New Hampshire. The Indiana Republican committee had in the last campaign asked the Republican newspapers to make Southern outrages prominent till after election. These stories of outrages in the South were heralded before the country for electioneering purposes.

Mr. Logan asked the Senator if he was candid in the statement that the stories of Southern outrages were heralded before the country for election purposes.

Mr. Hamilton replied that perhaps some murders had been committed; no one regretted them more than himself; but those stories of Southern outrages were heralded before the country for campaign purposes.

Mr. Logan said he would like to have read the testimony showing that 100 negroes were murdered in one place. He was prepared with sworn statements to show that every statement of these outrages was true, and it would not do to say they were heralded to the country for campaign purposes. The men who make such statements were seared with hot iron and had no sympathy. (Applause in the galleries.)

Mr. Bayard obtained the floor, but yielded to Mr. Sargent for a motion for an executive session, which was agreed to and at 4 o'clock the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business.

HOUSE. Mr. Maynard of Tenn., chairman of the Committee on Banking, moved the previous question on the passage of the bill, so as to cut off all debate and amendments, but with the suggestion that members who had prepared any remarks on the subject should have them printed in the Congressional Record.

The previous question was seconded, 100 to 90, and then the yeas and nays were called on ordering the main question to be put. The vote resulted yeas 125 nays 105. The question was then taken on the passage of the bill and it was passed.

FRIDAY, Jan. 8.

SENATE. A bill was reported by Mr. Young of Ga., authorizing the President to promote Asher Redny and Rufus Saxton to be Lieut. Colonels and Deputy Quarter Masters, to date from the 29th of July, 1866. and to take place on the Army Register next below Col. Stewart Van Vleit, gave rise to a lively discussion in which the whole question of the relative merits of the regular and volunteer officers came up.

Mr. Butler of Massachusetts, opposed the bill because it placed certain volunteer officers lower on the Army Register, and Messrs. Young of Ga., McDougall of New York, Nesmith of Oregon, and Kellogg of Conn., advocated the bill and defended the reputation of regular army officers.

Finally the bill was passed.

Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill to provide for a legal and fair election in the State of Louisiana, and to guarantee to that State a republican form of government.

Referred to the judiciary committee.

Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, from the committee on ways and means, reported the bill providing that section 19 of the act of the 22d of June, 1874, repealing moieties, shall not be construed to affect any authority, power or right that might thereunder have been lawfully exercised by any court, judge or district attorney of the United States to obtain testimony of an accomplice in any proceedings against such accomplice.

The bill, after an explanation by Mr. Kasson, was passed.

(The Senate was not in session Saturday and the House only met for general debate.)

Monday, Jan. 11.

SENATE. In the Senate at the expiration of the morning hour, Mr. Schurz called up the resolution submitted by him Friday, instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire what legislation of Congress is necessary to protect the people of Louisiana in their rights of self government under the constitution, and report with the least delay by bill or otherwise. He addressed the Senate upon Louisiana affair at length in the presence of crowded galleries, and a large number of members of the House, and others entitled to the floor of the Senate, who occupied seats in the rear of the Senate desk, and the cloak rooms were crowded with ladies unable to obtain admission to the gallery.

HOUSE. Bills were introduced and referred, including the following by Mr. Burleigh: For light station at York, Maine.

Mr. Dawes presented the case of another recusant witness in the Pacific Mail investigation, Charles Abert, who declined to answer certain questions on the plea of privilege communications between attorney and client. He offered a resolution for the arrest of Abert and the bringing him to the bar of the House for contempt. The resolution was agreed to and he was almost immediately brought into the House in the custody of the Sergeant-at arms and the Speaker asked him whether he was ready to answer the question of the committee.

Mr. Abert replied that he would on being ordered so to do by the House. The case was then referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Cox of New York offered a resolution in reference to the affairs in Louisiana, which was read and referred to the Judiciary Committee:

Mr. Kasson introduced a bill supplementary to the bill to return specie payments. Referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Garfield of Ohio, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill appropriating $225,000 to defray the expenses of entertaining the King of the Hawaiian Islands.

Pending the vote the House adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

SENATE. Mr. Morrill of Vt., from the committee on Finance, reported a joint resolution, authorizing Thomas W. Fitch, engineer of the U. S. Navy, to accept a wedding present sent to his wife, Minnie Sherman Fitch, by the Khedive of Egypt. Passed.

The House bill to abolish the western district of Arkansas was passed.

Mr. Sargent presented the memorial of citizens of the county of Washington, District of Columbia, praying that in any legislation by Congress for the government of the District, the rate of taxation shall not exceed 75 cents on every $100.

HOUSE. On motion of Mr. Williams of Massachusetts the Committee on Post-offices was directed to inquire and report what change can be made in the postal laws for the purpose of reducing the expenses without impairing the usefulness and efficiency of the service.

The Senate bills removing the political disabilities of Dobney H. Maury and Chas. M. Fauntleroy of Virginia were passed.

On Motion of Mr. Hale of Maine the Senate amendments of the naval appropriation bill were concurred in, they only increasing the appropriation $200.

Mr Townsend reported the general bill granting to railroad companies the right of way through the public lands. After considerable discussion the bill passed as a substitute for the Senate bill. It gives the right of way to the extent of 100 feet on each side of the central line of the road, and the right to take from the adjacent public lands the earth, stone, timber, etc, necessary for the construction of the road, also the ground for stations not to exceed 20 acres for each station, to the extent of one station to every ten miles of road. Provision was inserted that the United States shall have authority to regulate the charges for transportation, and rights of way shall be subject to the authority of the states through which the roads may pass.

The bill granting a right of way to construct a toll road from the mouth of Cottonwood Canon to the head of the Canon was debated, but without action the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Jan. 13.

SENATE. The Consideration of Mr. Schurz's resolution in regard to Louisiana, being the unfinished business was resumed, and Mr. Logan replied at length to the speech of Mr. Schurz.

The Vice-President submitted a message from the President communicating reports in regard to the cholera epidemic in 1873. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE. The President's message respecting Louisiana affairs was received and read and referred to the committee on Revision of Laws.

The House went into a committee of the whole on the Indian appropriation bill, which appropriates $4,485,507.

AFFAIRS IN NEW ORLEANS. Matters in New Orleans remain very much the same as they did last week. A proposition has been made which seems to meet with favor in some quarters, to submit the questions at issue to the Congressional Committee acting as a court. The action of Gen. Sheridan in interfering with the State Legislature has caused great excitement, and is severely censured by some and approved by others. The country is flooded with rumors and reports from New Orleans, mostly of a sensational character, and of course unreliable. Gen. Sheridan has sent a despatch to the Secretary of War, giving a detailed statement of the affair at the State House, and a full report of the condition of things in Louisiana. The following is the despatch to Secretary Belknap:

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Jan. 9.

To Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War:

I have the honor to submit the following brief report of affairs as they occurred here in the organization of the State Legislature of Jan. 4, 1875:

I was not in command of this military department till 9 o'clock at night on the 4th inst., but I fully endorse and am willing to be held responsible for acts of the military as conservators of the public peace on that day. During the few days in which I was in the city prior to the 4th of January, the general topic of conversation was the scenes of bloodshed that were likely to occur on that day, and I repeatedly heard threats of assassinating the Governor, and regrets expressed that he was not killed on the 4th of September last, also threats of assassination of the Republican members of the House, in order to secure the election of a Democratic Speaker. I also know of kidnapping by the bandits of Cousins, one of the members elect of the Legislature.

In order to preserve peace and to make the State House safe for a peaceable assembling of the Legislature, Gen. Emory, upon requisition of the Governor, stationed troops in the vicinity of the building. Owing to these precautions the Legislature assembled in the State House without any disturbance of the peace.

At 12 o'clock Mr. Vigers, the clerk of the last House of Representatives, proceeded to call the roll as according to law he was empowered to do. One hundred and two legally returned members answered to their names. Of this number fifty-two were Republicans and fifty Democrats. Before entering the House L. A. Wiltz had been selected in caucus as the Democratic nominee for Speaker, and Michael Hahn as the Republican nominee. Mr. Vigers had not finished announcing the result when Mr. Billieu of Lafourche, nominated L. A. Wiltz for temporary Speaker. Vigers promptly declared the motion out of order at that time, when some one put the question, and amid cheers on the Democratic side of the House, Wiltz dashed on to the rostrum, pushed aside Vigers, seized the Speaker's gavel and declared himself Speaker. A protest against this arbitrary and unlawful proceeding was promptly made by members of the minority, but Wiltz paid no attention to these protests, and on motion from some one of the Democratic side of the House, it was declared that one Trezevant was nominated and elected Clerk of the House. Trezevant at once sprang forward and occupied the Clerk's chair, amid the wildest confusion over the whole House. Wiltz then again on another nomination from the Democratic side of the House, declared one Flood elected Sergeant-at-arms, and ordered a certain number of assistants to be appointed. Instantly a large number of men throughout the hall who had been admitted on various pretexts, such as reporters and members, friends or spectators, turned down the lapels of their coats, upon which were pinned blue ribbon badges on which were printed in gold letters the words "Assistant Sergeant-at-arms," and the Assembly were in possession of the minority, and the White League of Louisiana had made good its threat of seizing the House, many of the assistant Sergeant-at-arms being well known as captains of the White League companies in this city.

Notwithstanding the suddenness of this movement, the leading Republican members had not failed to protest again and again against this revolutionary action of the minority, but all to no purpose, and many of the Republicans rose and left the House in a body, together with the clerk, Mr. Vigers, who carried away with him the original roll of the House, as returned by the Secretary of State.

The excitement was now very great, and the Acting Speaker directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to prevent the egress or ingress of members, and several exciting scuffles with knives and pistols drawn took place, and for a few moments it seemed as if bloodshed would ensue. At this juncture Mr. Dupre, the member from Orleans parish, informed that the military power of the general government be invoked to preserve the peace, and that a committee be appointed to wait on Gen. De Trobriand, the commanding officer of the U. S. troops, stationed at the State House, and request his assistance in clearing the lobby. The motion was adopted, and a committee of five, of which Dupre was made chairman, was sent to wait on Gen. De Trobriand, and soon returned with that officer, who was accompanied by two of his staff officers, and asked if his assistance was required. Wiltz said it was, whereupon the General proceeded to the lobby and addressed a few words to the excited crowd and peace was at once restored. On motion of Mr. Dupre, Wiltz then, in the name of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, thanked De Trobriand for his interference in behalf of law and order, and the General withdrew.

The Republicans had now generally withdrawn from the hall and united in signing a petition to the Governor, stating their grievances and asking his aid, which petition, signed by 52 legally returned members of the House, is in my possession. Immediately subsequent to the action of Wiltz in rejecting the Clerk of the old House, Mr. Billieu moved that two gentlemen from the parish of De Soto, one from Winnin, one from Bienville, and one from Iberia, who had not been returned by the returning board, be sworn in as members, and they were accordingly sworn in by Wiltz and took their seats on the floor as members of the House. A motion was now made that the House proceed with its permanent organization, and accordingly the roll was called by Mr. Trezevant, the Acting Clerk, and Wiltz was declared Speaker, and Trezevant Clerk of the House. Acting on the protest made by the majority of the House, the Governor now requested the commanding General of the department to aid him in restoring order, and enable the legally returned members of the House to proceed with the business according to law.

Rembering vividly the terrible massacre that took place in this city on the assembling of the constitutional convention in 1866, at the Mechanic's Institute, and believing that the lives of the members of the Legislature were or would be endangered in case an organization under the law was attempted, the posse was furnished with the request that care should be taken that no member of Legislature returned by the returning board should be ejected from the floor. This military posse performed its duty under directions from the Governor of the State, and removed from the floor of the House those persons who had been illegally seated, and who had no legal right to be there, whereupon the Democrats rose and left the House, and the remaining members proceeded to effect an organization under the state laws.

In all this turmoil, in which bloodshed was imminent, the military posse behaved with great discretion. When Wiltz, the usurping Speaker of the House, called for the troops to prevent bloodshed, they were given him. When the Governor of the state called for the posse for the same purpose and to enforce the law, it was furnished also. Had this not been done, it is my firm belief that scenes of bloodshot would have ensued.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieut.-Gen.

☞ The very large sale of the Eureka Machine twist is not a matter of surprise, it proves exactly as represented every time.

Died.

In Augusta, Jan. 6, Susie L. wife of the late Capt. Charles Kempton, aged 40 years; Jennie Louise Cushman, aged 15 years 4 months; Jan. 10, —— wife of Simon O'Hier, aged about 60 years; Dec. 18, Daniel S. Palmer, aged 42 years 6 months; 12th inst., Alice Beale, aged 19 years and 10 months.

In ATTOWSIC, Jan. 9, Samuel Freeman, aged 79 yrs 10 mon1s.

In Alna, Jan. 4, Wm. Cunningham, aged 79 years 8 months.

In Brewer, Jan. 7, Timothy R. Harley, aged 41 years 11 months.

In Boston, Jan. 10, very suddenly, Thadeus M. Mason, esq., aged 52 years 8 months.

In Bethel, Dec. 30, Nancy Merry, wife of Eli Swan, aged 47 years 11 months.

In Berlin Falls, N. H., Lizzie E. Moore of Ellsworth, aged 20 years 9 months.

In Boothbay, Dec. 27, Elizabeth F., wife of Capt. Freeman K. Reed, aged 34 years 8 months.

In Chelsea, Jan. 5, Joseph Weeks, aged 79 years 10 months.

In Clinton, Jan. 3, Sarah, wife of Gideon Wells, aged 56 years 8 months.

In Camden, Jan. 7, Alphonso M. Prines, aged 36 years.

In Calais, Dec. 28, Nathaniel Cram, formerly of Eastport, a pensioner of 1812, aged 84 years 5 months; Eliza Ann, wife of Jessie Christie, aged 53 years 5 months.

In Denmark, Dec. 21, William F. Pingree, aged 22 years.

In Dayton, Jan. 3, Wm. Roberts, aged 72 years 7 months.

In Ellsworth, Jan. 2, Clara Bodwell, aged 27 years 5 months.

In Gardiner, Jan. 3, Mary, widow of the late Josiah F. Morrill of Chelsea, aged 70 years.

In Gray, Dec. 16, Capt. John Morse, aged 77 years.

In Gilead, Jan. 4, Sally, wife of the late Hev. E. W. Coffin, aged 81 years.

In Hollis, Jan. 1, Pelitah Foss, aged 26 years; Jan. 5, Elisha Libby, aged 87 years.

In Kingfield, Dec. 31, Stephen Landers, aged 77 years.

In Kennebunk, Jan. 2, Benjamin Larrabee, aged 74 years.

In Norridgewock, Dec. 21, Georgie C. daughter of Joseph Taylor, aged 17 years.

In Pittsfield, Jan. 1, Mrs. Ida Powers, aged 23 years 9 months.

In Portland, Jan. 7, Moses K. Sawyer, aged 62 yrs 6 months; M. H. Hall, aged 47 years; Jan. 10, N. wife of John Yeaton, esq., aged 60 years; Freeman S. Clark, aged 64 years; Jan. 11, Adeline, wife of Wm. E. Edwards, aged 66 years; R. W. Mayberry of Deering.

In Prospect, Dec. 25, Mehitable N., widow of the late Dea. Rufus S. Bowdoin, aged 86 years 11 months.

In Philipsburg, Jan. 9, Rebecca E. Wildes, aged 44 years.

In Richmond, Dec. 28, J. Alvin Douglass, aged 44 years 11 months.

In Rockland, Jan. 4, Alton H., son of Elijah H. Hall, aged 8 years 2 months; Jan. 5, Bertha E. Weymouth of Deer Isle, aged 16 years 4 months; Jon. 4, Jane M., wife of H. T. Hewett, aged 61 years 5 mos.

In Rumford, Dec. 26, Mrs. John Hall. aged 35 yrs

Poetry.

Backbone.

When you see a fellow mortal
Without fixed and fearless views,
Hanging on the skirts of others,
Walking in their cast off shoes;
Bowing low to wealth and favor
With abject, uncovered head,
Ready to retreat or waver,
Willing to be drove or led;
Walk yourself with firmer bearing;
Throw your moral shoulders back!
Show your spine has nerve and marrow—
Just the thing which his must lack.
A stronger word
Was never heard
In sense and tone
Than this, backbone.

When you see a theologian
Hugging close some ugly creed,
Fearing to reject or question
Dogmas which his priest may read;
Holding back all noble feelings,
Choking down each manly view;
Caring more for forms and symbols
Than to know the good and true;
Walk yourself with firmer bearing;
Throw your moral shoulders back;
Show your spine has nerve and marrow—
Just the thing which he must lack.

When you see a politician
Crawling through contracted holes;
Begging for some fat position,
In the ring and at the polls;
With no sterling manhood in him,
Nothing staple broad or sound;
Destitute of pluck and ballast,
Double sided all around;
Walk yourself with firmer bearing;
Throw your moral shoulders back;
Show your spine has bone and marrow—
Just the thing which his must lack.

A modest song and plainly told—
The text is worth a mine of gold;
For many men most sadly lack
A noble stiffness in the back.

Our Story Teller.

MRS. TWINKLETON'S CREED.

"Well, Tabby, here's the goose!" exclaimed Mr. Twinkleton, as he opened the street-door and entered the front parlor, or living-room of his domicile.

"And a very fine un, too," responded his faithful spouse; "I haven't seen a better un since Aunt Jane sent us that un from Bridgewater, five years agone."

Such an expression of opinion emanating from the lips of one who had been born and bred in the country, and therefore might be expected to know the "points" of a bird of this description, had an electrical effect upon the ten juvenile members of the Twinkleton family, all of whom, including the two youngest, gathered around the table and gave vent to a tribute of admiration.

Mr. Twinkleton, who was of diminutive stature, looked round approvingly, and when the enthusiasm had somewhat subsided, attempted to give an additional fillip by adding:

"I believed, twas the finest goose in the club. It weighs thirteen pounds if it does an ounce."

Mrs. Twinkleton, who had been handling the goose with the touch of a master and surveying it with an eye of a connoisseur, ventured the remark that she did not think it was quite so much as thirteen pounds—say twelve pounds and ten ounces at the utmost; still there could be no doubt it was a very fine bird, and likely to prove remarkably tender.

With that Mr. Twinkleton divested himself of his overcoat, and taking his seat by the fire, immediately became the centre of attraction to the numerous progeny with which his wedded life had been blessed, until, tired with the extra exertions in which they had that Christmas eve indulged, they manifested symptoms of wishing to retire for the night, and were given into the charge of the eldest child, a bright, intelligent girl now approaching her twelfth year, and beginning to be of vast service to her mother, not alone in the cares of the household, but in that branch of the laundry business termed "mangling," which Mrs. Twinkleton carried on with credit and profit.

In truth, it required a fair weekly sum to keep those ten little creatures well fed and comfortably clothed. Mr. Twinkleton was a tailor, working for himself, though in a small way. His wife's labors brought more money into the household than his did.—"But, Lor'," said Mrs. Twinkleton, on an occasion when a neighbor had commented on this fact, "what's it matter so long as it all goes into the same purse?"

After the children had departed, Mr. Twinkleton, who had for some minutes been silently contemplating the fantastic shapes formed by the ruddy coals, took his pipe from his mouth, and, after a few preliminary "hems," thus addressed his spouse, who was then busily engaged in a post-mortem examination of the goose:—"Do you know, I was a-thinking as I was a-coming home, Tabby, as it would be a real charity to invite Mr. and Mrs. Lunn to come in to-dinner to-morrow. We have had but few friends, and I believe they like us—more 'specially you, as used to take such notice of poor Sally, their niece. What d'ye say?"

"Tim," responded his wife, a smile lighting up her broad, jovial face, "there's nothing as I should like better. They're people as don't want any fuss or extra preparation—ready to take just what's a going without turning up their noses at it if the shake of the bag shouldn't turn out so good as we expect." Mrs. Twinkleton was from Somersetshire, and during a residence of some fifteen years in London had retained with extraordinary purity the dialect and some of the peculiar similies of her native county.

"Ah, poor Sally," observed Mr. Twinkleton, "she was about the last girl as you'd think would 'a gone wrong. So mild and gentle, and such a reg'lar attender at church, too. 'Twas a sad day for her when she met that porter chap, Joe Briggs."

"Don't you judge too harshly, Tim," said Mrs. Twinkleton, suspending her labors for a brief space; "things did look bad agin her, although she wrote home saying she had gone off with Briggs as a sisterly companion, and a kind of good genius to him, and nothing else. I never knew Sally to tell me a lie, and I don't believe she wrote one in that letter. Her uncle and aunt, who'd brought her up in childhood, ought not to have turned their backs upon her in the way they did, for, as I told 'em the other day, all the goodness in the world without charity is sounding brass and tinkling cymbals."

The good lady was so warm in the defence of her young friend that Tim judged it prudent not to run counter to her opinion; so he simply remarked that he feared she would never bring Mr. and Mrs. Lunn to look at the matter from her stand-point.

"Don't say that either, for, as you know, when I've set my heart on a thing I generally manage to carry it out. When I first went to Squire Mangold's, in Oxfordshire, as kitchen-maid, the pots and brasses were, through never having been properly looked after (the Squire, you knew, was an old bachelor), in a state as I never saw before, and I've met with a little dirt in my time. Ah, says Dick, the groom, one day, when he see me trying to rub a stew-pan (in which job might have written your name half an inch deep, 'you'll never do no good with them things. It's labor wasted, and vexation of spirit afterward. Them pans have never been bright since they were first brought into the house.' 'Oh, ain't they?' I says; 'well, I know what'll get' em bright agin, if nobody else in the house does, and afore a month's over our heads I'll make 'em as sprack and shining as you'll be able to do without a looking-glass when're in front of one.' 'All right,' he says, 'we'll see.' Well I said nothing more about it until a month had gone by, and then, one day, seeing Dick busy outside the stable, I called him into the kitchen. It would have done any body's heart good to see how his eyes opened, for whichever way he looked he saw his own image. 'Lor' 'a massa, Tabitha,' he says; 'well, I never expected this! It beats my best set of harness altogether. Why, they can't be the same things.' With that he walked up to a particular stew-pan, which he knew well, through having at one time accidentally kicked it into the back, and there was a deep dent it ever rfterward. 'Yes,' he says scratching his head, 'it's the same, sure. Whatever did'ee use?' 'Something,' I says, 'that never fails. It's an old remedy, as old as Adam—it's elber-grease, and nothing else, Tim, as brought them pots and pans to a brightness they never had before, and it's elber-grease as'll reconcile the Lunns to poor Sally.'"

"Tabitha," remarked Mr. Twinkleton, rising from his seat, and giving his wife a kiss that might almost have been heard out-of-doors, so hearty was it, "you're an hangel."

Mrs. Twinkleton smirked, and felt grateful for the compliment, but, of course, she entered a protest. "No, I ain't; far from it; there's as many short comings about me as there is about most folks; but I tries to do my duty as a Christian woman. Do as you'd be done by, that's my motter. I believed in Sally, and I believe in her now, although those has turned their backs upon her as shouldn't."

"How long is it, Tabby, since she wrote home, stating as she'd gone off with Joe Briggs to Australia, leaving his drunken wife behind?"

"Why, three years come January."

"Well, I thought it was there or thereabouts, but I didn't remember exactly."

Elated by his wife's enthusiasm, Mr. Twinkleton thrust himself into his overcoat, and winding a thick woolen comforter about his neck, for there was a stiff nor' easter blowing, bustled off to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lunn. He was not absent any lengthened period, and returned ere his portly dame had finished trussing the goose.

"It's all right!" he exclaimed, again resuming his old position by the fire.—"They're coming, and I told 'em dinner would be ready at one o'clock, sharp. They don't seem in particular good spirits, the old folks don't."

"And you can't wonder at it. They ain't got no children to bring warmth and new life to their hearts like we have. Gracious me, I shouldn't be half the woman I am if it wasn't for them dear souls in the other room. People says as every child is worth a hundred pounds to parents, but Lor' I wouldn't lose one o' mine for thousands.—I dare say the Lunns have been very lonely since poor Sally left 'em, for you don't appreciate a blessing until you've lost it. It was but nat'ral the girl should have fell in love, though one could have wished it was with a man who wasn't already married, although he did save her life that day in Cheapside, when she'd 'a been run over by one of them railway vans that goes rushing along the street like mad, if he hadn't dragged her from under the horses' heels, getting his own leg fractured in doing it. If she's living, Sally'll turn out right enough yet depend upon it. I don't care for obstinacy and black looks. Them brasses I was telling you of looked black enough at one time, but they gave in to elber-grease, and so'll old Lunn."

Mrs. Twinkleton, having by this time completed her preparations for the morrow's dinner, began bustling about the room, "setting things straight agin," as she termed it. This accomplished, she drew her chair to her husband's side, and the worthy couple—their hearts full of grateful praise—recalled incidents of a by-gone time, the recollection of which was very pleasant to them, the bells of the neighboring churches meanwhile clanging forth a hearty welcome to the new day.

The Twinkletons were but humble people to whom luxury—ay, and even comfort, save that of the homeliest description—was unknown. The monetary wealth—the accumulation of more than a dozen years of a wedded life—consisting of forty pounds nestling in the security of the district's savings bank, and their bread came to them only by dint of indefatigable labor; but they possessed what is better than money, or lands, or worldly riches of any description; though gladly shall fairy, content, was continually throwing gleams of sunshine throughout their home, causing the humblest objects to reflect its radiance. Then too, they had thankfulness—a gift which materially added to their happiness. Then, again, they had children, all of whom, including the twins, whose coming had, as it were, crowned the matrimonial edifice, were regarded by them in the light of treasures, and cherished accordingly. After all, you see, their little tailor and his wife were not so poorly circumstanced as people at the first glance might suppose.

The children were on Christmas morning astir at even an earlier hour than usual; unlike those dyspeptic individuals who fare sumptuously every day, the goose and plum-pudding troubled the Twinkleton children before, and not after, it had passed down their throats. Ere the dawn their merry voices were echoing through the house, and two or three of the juniors, escaping the vigilance of that useful eldest daughter, had run barefooted from their dormitory into the living room to see whether the wonderful specimen of the feathered tribe was a reality and not a dream. But there was the creature safe enough; while the puddings were as tightly bound within their crockery prisons as though there was a vague suspicion on the part of the maker that they might take to themselves the wings of the dead bird and fly away. Of course, it was absurd to think of a hearty breakfast with such excellent things in prospective. The Twinkleton progeny were wise in their generation, and just took as much breakfast as they thought would satisfy internal cravings until the anxiously expected dinner hour arrived, and not a fragment more. The meal was therefore soon over, and then began preparations for the momentous business of the day.

An enquiry, "Mother, ain't you going to put the pudden on to boil?" settled the morning programme of the younger branches of the family. "Really Tim," exclaimed Mrs. Twinkleton, "if I am to have all those children worriting round me, I shall be so flustered that I shan't know what I'm about. Do take 'em out for a bit; a scamper would give 'em quite an appetite."

This suggestion meeting with warm approval, the proud father soon had the family equipped, and the following two hours were agreeably spent in the open plains of Victoria Park.

A very bright and cheerful spectacle was that presented to the gaze of Mr. Twinkleton and his offspring when they returned from their morning's outing. In honor of the day, the cozy apartment had been decorated with holly and Christmas evergreens, in a manner both profuse and tasteful. A scalloped border of green paper had been pinned around the frame of the looking-glass surmounting the mantlepiece; over the door of the children's bedroom was the inscription, in white paper letters, pasted on a scarlet ground-work, "Welcome to old Father Christmas," the work of Tim's eldest daughter, who displayed some cleverness in such homely art. A cloth of snowy purity was spread over the deal table; not a speck of dust was visible anywhere, and above all there was the goose sputtering and hissing before the fire, and sending forth savory odors that made the children perfectly ravenous.

Misled by an eccentric church clock, Tim and his family were later by a quarter of an hour than they had supposed, so that the little tailor expected to have seen the goose waiting upon the table, with Mrs. Twinkleton and the visitors in a state of perturbation lest the good things should get cold. He was therefore somewhat surprised when he found that dinner would not be ready for half an hour; he thought, too, that Mrs. Twinkleton seemed somewhat agitated; but in response to his expressed hope that she had not been overexciting herself, she stated that a difficulty had occurred with the "jack," regulating the movement of the goose, and this had flurried her.

"But," continued Tim, looking steadily into her face, "you've been crying, Tabby."

"Lor', Tim," replied his wife, "you're just as bad in asking questions as the children. Ain't I been mixing some mustard?" Thus answered, Mr. Twinkleton proceeded to divest his offspring of their out-of-door apparel—a task he had just completed when the visitors arrived.

Mr. Lunn was a short man, with a stoop in the shoulders that made him appear even more of a dwarf than he really was. At the first glance his countenance seemed stern and uninviting; but when you looked steadily into his face it was easy to see that the weight of years, combined with some recent grief, had brought those dark lines beneath the eyes, and those wrinkles to the forehead overhung with iron-grey hair. His manner was quiet in the extreme, and his head inclined toward the ground, save when he was engaged in conversation. His wife was a little, small of stature, but her face was brighter and her step more elastic than her husband's.

"I'm glad we haven't kept you waiting," said Mrs. Lunn, after the seasonable congratulations had been exchanged. "I hurried on my old man as fast as I could, but on the way we were hindered by meeting several friends. Now don't you trouble yourself, Mrs. Twinkleton"—this in protest to a movement on the part of her hostess to temporarily relinquish her duties. "I'll just run into the children's room and take off my bonnet."

"No," said Mrs. Twinkleton, dropping the basket-ladle and standing between Mrs. Lunn and the door. "Come up stairs and leave your things."

"Lor', Tabby," interposed Tim, "why, Mrs. Lunn may as well go into the children's room. She won't mind the litter it's in."

"Never mind," said Mrs. Twinkleton, betraying an agitation quite unusual to her. "I'd rather Mrs. Lunn would come up stairs where's it's all tidy."

So as no other arrangement was agreeable to Mr. Twinkleton, the two ladies ascended to the upper floor; and when they made their appearance it was found that dinner was ready to be served—an intimation that, on the part of the children, caused a tremendous rush for chairs, followed by a clatter of spoons, forks, knives and plates that was quite exhilerating.

What a dinner it was! Never in the recollection of both Mr. and Mrs. Lunn (and they could go back some sixty odd years) had they tasted such a magnificent goose; and as for the children—well words fail to convey their expressions of the feast. Mrs. Twinkleton seemed somewhat abstracted and confused, and made an attempt at an apology respecting the cooking, being desirous of ascertaining whether Mrs. Lunn thought the bird would have been improved had it remained before the fire another five minutes; but Tim declared it was done "just to a turn," and that his Tabitha her self knew well enough her skill had never been more conspicuously manifested.

If the goose was a success, what shall be said of the pudding? But there is an end even to the most enjoyable meal; and so at last Mr. and Mrs. Lunn withdrew their chairs, and the children one by one quitted the table, though with many a last, fond look at the fragments of the feast remaining.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Twinkleton, the children availed themselves of the daylight to have a run in the alley; and when thus left to themselves the four adults drew their chairs round the fire, and began to speak of current topics. By-and-by Mrs. Twinkleton, in the most innocent manner possible, drew the conversation toward the girl on whose reputation there rested such a stain.

"Poor Sally," she said, addressing Mrs. Lunn, "you must have missed her sadly; and only to think that there should 'a been no traces of her after she sent that letter from Australia."

"Quite as well, Mrs. Twinkleton," replied Mr. Lunn, severely. "After the way we had brought her up, we felt she was a disgrace to us, and therefore the sooner she was lost sight of the better. I've tried, Heaven knows, to bolt out all recollection of her, but it's impossible. I never thought the gal we so tenderly cherished would 'a acted so."

"And do you really consider she did disgrace you, Mr. Lunn?" pursued the resolute Mrs. Twinkleton.

"Well, now, could anybody else think otherwise?" asked the old man, sadly,—"What's the world say of a gal who runs away with a man who's married?"

"The world, Thomas Lunn, may say what it likes: but I believe if your Sally ain't Joe Briggs wife in the eyes of Heaven and of the law, she's as free from sin as she was when she was a child."

A tear gleamed in the eyes of Mrs. Lunn as, unseen by the others, she grasped her friends's hand in gratitude for the defence of the child she had always loved; but Mr. Lunn, resolutely setting his face against any compromise, looked steadily at Mrs. Twinkleton as he said:

"It's not the first time you've done your best to make me change my opinion of our poor gal; but ma'am, we cannot shut our eyes to facts. She knew what would be said of the step she took; she knew that she could never hope to clear her character or regain the respectability she had lost; yet notwithstanding the entreaties of her aunt and myself—her only living relations—she chose to attach herself to a man upon whom she could have no claim whatever. As I can not drive her from my heart, my prayer is that she may see the error of her ways, and send up her petitions to that throne where the prayers of the truly penitent are never disregarded."

Mr. Lunn put aside the pipe he had been smoking in companionship with Mr. Twinkleton, and wiped from his eyes the tears which had gathered there. The persevering Mrs. Twinkleton noted these indications of feeling with the utmost gratification, and in response to his inquiring look from her husband, formed her lips into words which Mr. Twinkleton interpreted as "more elbergrease."

"Well, Tabby," interposed the little tailor, "somehow or other you sin't making us feel as jolly as we ought to be at Christmas time. Now suppose I sing you a song."

And forthwith Mr. Twinkleton started an inspiring ditty, with a chorul refrain about "Many happy returns of the day," with such success that smiles once more began to appear on the countenances of his guests. Then Mr. Lunn, being very much pressed, sang in quivering accents a little ballad relating to a woodpecker tapping a hollow beech-tree. After which came the turn of Mrs. Twinkleton, who sought to be excused, but neither her husband nor the visitors would hear of any evasion. The songs belonging to the repertoire of this good lady were, like herself, old-fashioned, but full of spirit and homely sympathy.

"Well," said Mrs. Twinkleton, on finding that all excuses were in vain, "I ain't much up for singing after stooping over the fire all the morning, but I'll give you a story. It's new even to you, Tim, for I only heard it a few hours ago."

After this preface Mrs. Twinkleton took a sip of her husband's beer, and thus commenced:

"Once upon a time, but a great many years ago, there was a good-hearted man and his wife, who, being without children, took to themselves a little gal, their orphan niece, and brought her up and loved her almost as much as though she was their own; and she looked up to them too. Well, they educated this young gal as well as they could, and she became the joy of their home, they being proud of her as could be; but they looked forward with dread to the time when some young fellow should come along and ask her to be his wife. Now that was selfish, but they couldn't help it. Neither could the young gal help falling in love with a handsome young chap, just five years older than herself, who was employed at the same place where she was, and had saved her life, getting injured himself in consequence. Somehow or other these two, although they tried to avoid each other, kept meeting. They each guessed what was in the other's mind, so that the young gal, whenever she see this young man coming, used to blush as red as a pickling cabbage, while he looked quite sheepish. This sort of thing went on for six months or more, and at last the young fellow plucked up courage to speak, and occasionally, when the weather was wet or foggy, he'd see her home. The streets were very dangerous then; but this know, was a long while ago! a very long time ago. One eventful day they each began a new life, and this was how it came about. The young gal, just before the warehouse closed, was sent down to the bottom of the house for some things which were wanted unexpectedly. All the porters had left, so she went down alone; and you can guess how surprised she was when she see somebody sitting on a bale of goods, with his face in his hands, and sobbing as though his heart would break. Well, this gal was one of your plucky sort, and didn't run away screaming that she'd seen a ghost, or any nonsense of that sort; and having a kind heart—a real good soul she was—she goes up to him and asks him what's the matter. When he lifted his head, she see it was the young fellow who had saved her life. He told her he was in the greatest distress; that for no fault of his own he had got into his master's books, and that he was haunted by a demon that made him sick of life. That night he walked with her to her relative's door, and on her way he told her he'd been married for the past three years; that his wife was a drinker, who, bit by bit had sold every article of furniture they had, and that, having given her all the money he had saved since the days of childhood—something like eighty pounds—they had separated. He had hoped never to see her again; but it appeared she had accidentally seen him in the street, and followed him to the warehouse, and while in a drinky state, had gone to his employers with a lie that he had refused to maintain her. Well, the young gal, instead of wishing this young fellow not to speak to her again, as the world have said was her properest course, she give him words of hope and comfort. After a couple of months the woman, more tipsy than before, called again, and it ended by the young man being sent off from his employment. He waited until she whom he had learned to call his sister came out, and then he told her they should never meet again. His life was a burden to him, and he meant to put an end to it all. "Oh," he said, "if I'd only met you afore I married that woman, what a happy creature I might a' been?" She stopped him, and said how sinful it was to think of suicide. "If," she says, "your wife continues to follow you about, and you can't make her respectable, why don't you emigrate?" Says he, suddenly, 'I will on one condition; join me as a sister. With you I can be an industrious, steady man; without you it will be drink, and perhaps the river.' Although she knew well enough she was forfeiting the love of those who had brought her up, and that very few would believe the kind of contract there was between them, this young girl, conscious of her own strength, and full of loving sympathy for him whose life had been wrecked, consented to join him, and together they went to a foreign country."

The three listeners had hitherto paid the deepest attention to the story, though each was moved by a different interest. Mr. Twinkleton's mind wandered back to the Oxfordshire squire's sooty stew-pans and the vast power of "elber-grease." Mrs. Lunn was possessed of an eager, hopeful anxelty that Mrs. Twinkelton knew more of poor Sally's fate that was currently supposed, while the reminiscences Tabitha's conversation had awakened previous to the narration of the story left kept the Lunn under their influence. At this point, however, the latter entered a protest by saying.

"Mrs. Twinkelton, why bring back events which you know must be specially painful to us?"

But Sally's doughty champion was not abashed.

"Very likely," she resumed, "you've heard before something like what I've been telling you; but you don't know what's to come. This poor girl sent a letter home to her friends; but they, thinking she'd disgraced 'em, never answered it. This cut her to the heart; but she didn't despair. Her companion kept his word, and worked hard and successfully. Fortune smiled upon 'em in the new land, and by-and-by came intelligence of the death of the woman who had driven them from England. Then they who'd lived as brother and sister became man and wife. With her marriage lines in her pocket, and knowing as she could hold up her head agin before her friends, she tells her husband she should like to go over to England, just to see how the old people was, and maybe they'd go back with her."

"Well she hadn't the courage to go to her relatives, so she comes first to a friend of theirs, and it happens to be a Christmas-day. She comes at a time when this friend's alone, cooking the dinner, which she very nearly makes her spoil; and this friend tells her as her uncle and aunt is expected almost directly, and makes her go into a room close by, where she can see them without them seeing her, and—"

Mrs. Twinkleton never completed her story. The Lunns waited to hear no more, but hastening to the door of the children's room, received in their arms the wanderer against whom their hearts had so long been closed. In a moment all was forgotten, all forgiven.

Tim's eyes were wet with tears, but he ecstatically kissed away those that were coursing down the ruddy cheeks of his wife. When her emotion had somewhat subsided, she whispered.

"Tim, now don't you believe in elbergrease?"

"Ah, it ain't that as has won this victory," he replied.

"What is it?" she asked.

"Why, Christian charity. She was slandered, and you defended her; she was naked, and you clothed her; she was homeless, and took her into your heart, cherishing her there with a deep, earnest love of a noble-hearted woman. Truly, Tabitha, thou art laying up for thyself a rich treasure to be reaped hereafter."

John Cain.

THE TALE OF A DEFEATED CANDIDATE.

John Bain was a quiet, unobtrusive citizen. He didn't long for fame and renown, and he didn't care two cents whether this great and glorious country was ruled by a one-horse republican or a two-horse democrat. He had a pew in church, gave sixteen ounces for a pound, and when a man looked him square in the eye, Mr. Cain never took a back seat. He was home at a reasonable hour in the evening, never took part in the discussion, "Is lager beer healthy?" and many a man wished that his life rolled on as evenly and peacefully as John Cain's. But, alas! the tempter came. In an evil hour John Cain allowed the politicians to get after him, and to surround him. They said he was the strongest man in the country; that he could scoop out of his boots any man set in opposition; that his virtues were many and his faults 00000; that it was his duty to come out and take a nomination that this pure and incorruptible form of government be maintained pure and incorruptible. All this and much more they said, and John Cain became puffed up. It surprised him so to think that he had held his peaceful way along for forty old years, like a knot hole in a barn door, without anyone having discovered what a heap of a fellow he was; but he concluded there was a new era in politics, and that it was all right. The politicians covered John Cain with soft soap. They told him that the canvass shouldn't cost him a red, and that he could still retire at eight o'clock every evening and rest assured that his interests should be properly cared for. It was to be a still hunt—a very quiet election, and he would hardly know what was going on. John was an honest, unsuspecting idiot, and he swallowed their words as the confiding fish absorbs the baited hook.

John Cain was only nominated, and the band came out and serenaded him. With the band came several hundred electors, who filled the Cain mansion to overflowing, spit tobacco all over the house, ate and drank all they could find, broke down the gate, and went off with three cheers for John Cain. Before the canvass was ten days old half a dozen men called on Cain and gently hinted to him that he must come down with the "sugar." He didn't even know what "sugar" was until they explained. They wanted money to raise a pole, to buy beer, to get tickets printed, and do fifty other things with, all for his particular benefit, and he had to hand out the money.

In the course of another week they drew Cain out to make a speech at a ward meeting. He tried to claw off, but they told him that the opposing candidate would run out of sight if he didn't come out, and he went out. When he got through speaking the crowd drank at his expense, and Mr. Cain was astonished at the way the liquor went down, and more astonished at the way the bill footed up. He didn't reach home until midnight, and for the first time in his life he went to bed with his boots on. His wife wouldn't speak to him, and the hired girl left the house to save her character, and John Cain wished that the politicians had left him alone. More men came and crooked their fingers at him whispering "sugar." They wanted money to buy some doubtful votes, and to hire four-horse teams, and to mail his slips, and he had to come down. He hesitated, but they told him that the opposing candidate felt sure of victory, and that acted as a spur.

There was hardly a night that from fourteen to 240 friends did not call on Mr. Cain, to inform him as to the "prospects." They drank up the currant wine Mrs. Cain had laid by for sickness, emptied her preserve jars, and there wasn't a morning that she couldn't sweep out fifty cigar stubs and a peck of mud. They all told Cain that he would beat the other man so far out of sight that it would take a carrier pigeon to find him, and he couldn't very well refuse to go over to the corner grocery and "set 'em up" for the boys.

The crisis finally came. On the eve of election Mr. Cain's friends called for "sugar" again, and he had to sugar 'em. A big crowd called to warn him that he would certainly be elected, and the saloon bill was $28 more. Thirteen or fourteen men shook hands with his wife, a hundred or more shook hands with him, and he had to get up and declare that he didn't favor women's rights, and that he did; that he was down on whiskey, and yet loved it as a beverage; that he wanted the currency inflated, and yet favored specie payments, that he favored the civil rights bill, and yet didn't, and in his letter to the twenty-seven he was straight lies besides the evasions. Mr. Cain wanted to hold popular views, and he had to be on all sides at once.

On the day of election they dragged him from poll to poll, stopping at all the saloons on the way. He had to make 256,000 promises, pull his wallet until it was as flat as a wafer, drink lager with some and cold water with others, and when night came he went home and called Mrs. Cain his dear old rhinoceros, and fell over the gate, and went to sleep with his head under the stove. When Mr. Cain arose in the morning and became sober enough to read the election returns, he found he had scooped 'em as follows:

Opposing candidate - - - - -	86,420
John Cain - - - - -	81,380
Cain's majority (in a horn)* -	5,040

Mr. Cain went out and sat down under an apple tree in his back yard, and he gave himself up to reflection and so forth. Through the leafless branches sighed the November winds, and in the house sighed Mrs. Cain, and both sighs murmured gently in his ear,

"John Cain's a perpendicular ass."

Wheat and Physical Vigor.

Nothing is more sure in the chemistry of life than that the great bread eaters are the great thinkers, or that the phosphorus which wheat contains, in the outer kernel, immediately beneath the outer husk, is the feeder of brains, and the material substance which provokes thought, study, reason, and all the forms of nervous energy.

There are physiologists who attribute the remarkable success of States like Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to the bounty and perfection of the wheat crop, and the intellectual stimulus, or rather food, which it affords the brain. Certainly no commonwealth in the world has evinced a higher sense of law and order, or more rapidly developed a social system which has hardly an equal in the world. The Constitution of Indiana, for instance, the very centre of the wheat zone, is beyond comparison the best in the Union, produces the highest results in our civilization.

There is a southern wheat belt, which includes Australia and part of South America, where a civilization equal to that of the central north of the United States is growing up. But the full value of wheat as a civilizer will never be realized until wheat meal takes the place of bolted flour, and the people learn to make bread without yeast or risings. Good bread is emphatically the "staff of life" but the commercial article is the way to dyspepsia, and premature death.

☞ At a dinner party in London last August, there were two sisters present, one a widow who had just emerged from her weeds, the other not long married, whose husband had lately gone to India for a short time. A young barrister present was deputed to take the widow into dinner. Unfortunately he was under the impression that his bartner was the married lady whose husband had just arrived in India. The conversation between them commenced by the lady's remarking how extremely hot it was, "Yes, it is very hot," returned the young barrister. Then a happy thought suggested itself to him, and he added with a cheerful smile, "But not so hot as the place to which your husband has gone." The look with which the lady answered this "happy thought" will haunt that unhappy youth till his death.

☞ A school teacher lately asked a boy, "Which is the highest dignitary of the church?" After looking up and down, north and east, south and west, the boy replied, "The weather-cock."

☞ He who betrays another's secret because he has quarreled with him was never worthy of the sacred name of friend; a breach of kindness on the one side will not justify a breach of trust on the other.

☞ A quarrelsome couple were discussing the subject of epitaphs and tombstones, and the husband said: "My dear, what kind of a stone do you think they will give me when I die?" "Brimstone, my love," was the affectionate reply.

Young Folks' Column.

Just as it Used to Be.

Full many a face the blackboard shows,
Of spectacled eyes and monstrous nose;
With mouth stretched grinning from ear to ear,
And lanky neck and ribs so queer;
While underneath, in boyish scrawl,
The master's nickname's on the wall,
Just as it used to be.

Each boy is droning at his desk,
Scratched up with face and form grotesque,
And many a name indented deep,
Posterity's rewards to reap,
Just as *ours* used to be!

Among the mischief-loving girls,
One has a wealth of golden curls
And sunny dimples, and her eye
Is blue as an Italian sky,
Just as *hers* used to be!

Now all on frolic are intent,
So long the master's eye is bent;
When he looks up, then they look down,
And at their tasks profoundly frown;
When he looks down, with grimace sly
They twist their faces quite awry,
Just as *we* used to do!

The master, though severe, was kind,
Affected sternness was combined
With unaffected love of fun;
And when he joked or made a pun,
(And cunningly they saw a joke,
Within his face, before he spoke),
Right loud they roared with urchin craft,
And saw or not the point, they laughed,
Just as *we* used to do!

'Twas sad to see what used to be,
And find all things unchanged—but me;
'Twas sadder still to think that they
In after years with grief would say,
"O, that the days were here again
When all was pleasure, nothing pain,
Just as they used to be!"

Ladders.

Did you ever see a person carry a ladder? He puts it on his shoulder, or, it may be he puts his head between the rounds and has one of the sides resting on each shoulder, and, having it nicely balanced, walks along. A man with a ladder is an interesting object on a crowded street. He looks at the end before him, but the end behind him he cannot see. If he moves the front end to get out of the way of a person, away goes the rear end just as far in the opposite direction, and the slightest turn of the body, only a few inches, will give the ends a sweep of several feet, and those in the way may look for bruised hats and bumped heads, while the window glass along the street is in constant danger from the unseen rear end of the ladder.

When a small boy, I was carrying a not very large ladder, when there was a crash. An unlucky movement had brought the rear end of my ladder against a window. Instead of scolding me, my father made me stop and said very quietly,

"Look here, my son, there is one thing I wish you always to remember; that is, every ladder has two ends."

I never have forgotten that, though many, many years have gone, and I never see a man carrying a ladder or other long thing, but what I remember the two ends. Don't we carry things besides ladders that have two ends? When I see a young man pushing "fast" habits I think he only sees one end of that ladder, and that he does not know that the other end is wounding his parents' hearts.

Many a young girl carries a ladder in the shape of a love for dress and finery; she only sees that gratification of a foolish pride at the forward end of that ladder, while the end that she does not see is crushing true modesty and pure friendship as she goes along thoughtlessly among the crowd.

In fact, every ladder has two ends, and it is a thing to be remembered in more ways than one.—*The Moravian.*

About German Dogs.

I want to tell the little folks something about the poor dogs in Germany, and what a hard life most of them lead. I do not mean very small dogs, with curly tails and light, bushy, silken hair—dogs that seem made for nothing but to frisk about the world and bark all the day long; but I am talking of large, strong mastiffs, such as are to be found all over Germany. How do you think they spend their short lives? In rushing about, with great open mouths, to scare little people? No, indeed! A harness of leather is fastened about them, and they have to drag about the streets small carts or wagons. Sometimes two dogs are put together before the same cart, just as you see ponies driven.

Early in the morning the milk-cans are thus carried all over the city. The poor animal is led by a peasant-woman, in short blue dress, who holds in her hand a tiny stick. If he goes too slowly she hits his poor, little legs to remind him of his duty. But as this kind of treatment does not improve the dog's temper, a strong muzzle is fastened over his mouth, so that he cannot bite.

Not many days since I saw a dear little rosy-faced girl, about ten years of age, helping to draw one of these dogs-carts. A strap was fastened to her waist, and she seemed to be doing most of the work. I felt sorry for this child, till she looked up with a sweet, happy face to take from the hand of the woman by her side an apple, and I heard her laugh as merrily as if doggie and she were enjoying their work. I have seen these dogs lie down before their carts, too tired to go further, when the strong woman or boy with them could have helped them, had they chosen.

Every boy and girl should learn kindness to all dumb animals, so unable to tell what they suffer. You can do this if you ask yourself what you would like if you were in their places. Kind and thoughtful hearts grow into great hearts in time. I think I should like to preach a short sermon on kindness to the men and women who own these poor, tired dogs.—*Child's Companion.*

Queer Tom.

Tom Flossofer was the queerest boy I ever knew. I don't think he ever cried. I never saw him cry. If Fleda found her tulips all rooted up by her pet puppy, and cried, as little girls will, Tom was sure to come around the corner whistling and say:

"What makes you cry? can you cry tulips? do you think every sob makes a root or a blossom? Here, let's try to right them!"

So he would pick up the poor flowers, put their roots into the ground again, whistling all the time; make the bed look smooth and fresh, and take Fleda off to hunt hens' nests in the barn. Neither did he let any differently in his own troubles. One day his great kite snapped the string and flew away far out of sight. Tom stood still a moment, and then turned around to come home, whistling a merry tune.

"Why, Tom," said I, "aren't you sorry to lose that kite?"

"Yes, but what's the use? I can't take more than a minute to feel bad. 'Sorry" will not bring the kite back, and I want to make another."

Just so when he broke his leg.

"Poor Tom," cried Fleda, "you can't play any mo-o-re!"

"I am not poor, either. You cry for me; I don't have to do it for myself, and I have a splendid time to whistle. Besides, when I get well, I shall beat every boy in school on the multiplication table; for I say it over and over till it makes me sleepy, every time my leg aches."

Tom Flossover was queer, certainly, but I wish a great many more people were queer that way.—*Wood's Magazine.*

A Story for Bad Little Boys.

A benevolent fruit-raiser in Worcester, England, was recently much annoyed by boys who stole his peaches, after the manner of such small adventurers. He one day saw a minute marauder go up into one of his trees. He was ready for the emergency, for he had provided a large stuffed dog which he placed at the foot of the tree, and then retired a little to watch the effect of his strategy. The little boy having filled his stomach and his pockets with fruit, was about to descend, when his affrighted eye rested upon the animal. First he tried blandishments, viz., whistling, coaxing. Then he tried the sterner dodges, such as threatening and scolding. All was thrown away upon the stuffed dog, standing sternly there and never moving his stiff tail an inch to the right or left.

The little boy had never seen a dog like that, and, after a while, he understood that the peach tree must be his dormitory for the night. The hours dragged wearily on. The stuffed dog looked bigger and bigger in the dark. There was a plenty of peaches, but where was the little boy to find appetite? In the morning the owner appeared and asked the little boy how he happened to be in the tree. Alas! not in the least made better by his sufferings, he answered that he had been chased by the dog and had ascended for safety!

Why will little boys forget the thrilling story of Ananias and Sapphira? And what must have been the mingled emotions of wrath, mortification and legs-ache which agitated that boy when he discovered the game which had been played upon his credulity.

☞ "Herbert," said a perplexed mother, "why is it that you're not a better boy?" "Well," said the little fellow, soberly, looking up into her face with his honest blue eyes, "I suppose the real reason is that I don't want to be!" We think the child gave the real reason why all of us, big as well as little, are not better than we are.

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Within the past ten days we have made large purchases in all descriptions of

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